



**ECE Pre-Holiday
Warm-Up**
Target Age: 3-5
Created by Dr. Robyn Faintich
Content Adapted From  Library



The #ShineALight Initiative

The #ShineALight Initiative is a national project to create a collective light of celebration spreading the Jewish joy of Chanukah and the beautiful traditions we honor in our homes with our families.

Sponsored in part by the UJA-Federation of New York, the initiative is designed as a counter-expression to antisemitism and other messages of hate acts towards Jews and Israel. The #ShineALight Initiative is leveraging education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy among Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

The Jewish Education Project is a proud content partner of the #ShineALight Initiative and is delighted to provide these free materials to parents and other caring adults. We encourage you to utilize this education content in the week leading up to and through Chanukah (this year and in the future), and if applicable, at other times of the year.

Parent/Adult Background Information

This activity is based on the book [Hanukkah Bear](#) by Eric A. Kimmel which tells the story of how one older woman, who does not have good vision, accidentally invites a bear inside her home to celebrate Chanukah. The Jewish value of Haknassat Orchim focuses on how we welcome guests into our home. At the time of this publishing, many young children have not had the pleasure of inviting guests into their home due to Covid19 and we recognize some families may still not be inviting in-person guests for the holidays. If this is the case, you can share this lesson through the lens of, “once we are safely able to invite guests”

You may want to read through the [PJ Library Hanukkah Bear Resource Guide](#).

There are few items on the Supply List (above the Activity) that you may want to purchase.



Social Media: If you are comfortable, we would love for you to spread the joy your family is experiencing while participating in this activity. Please take photos and/or videos and share them to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.



Prep Time: 10 minutes

Activity Time: 25-35 minutes

Activity Flow:

Read a book

Watch a short cartoon

Make a “Share with Us” Basket

Make a “Guest Book”



ECE Pre-Holiday Warm-Up

Supplies

- *Hanukkah Bear* by Eric A. Kimmel
- TV or computer with internet
- Basket (laundry basket or even fancier)
- Construction paper
- Tape
- Blank book (examples [here](#) and [here](#))
- Crayons, markers and/or colored pencils
- Optional: Chanukah stickers (example [here](#)), Chanukah stamp set (examples [here](#) and [here](#))
- Optional: Camera (on phone or otherwise), printer and photo paper, glue sticks or rubber cement



Activity

1. Read the book [Hanukkah Bear](#) by Eric A. Kimmel
Discuss along the way how Bubba Brayna welcomed her guest
2. Optional: Watch the [Shaboom video](#) on Hachnasat Orchim (7+ minutes)
3. Discuss with your child(ren):
 - Who are the guests we might invite to join us for the upcoming holiday(s)?
 - What do we need to do in order to prepare our home for guests?
 - How might you help guests in your home feel welcome during Chanukah (and/or Thanksgiving)?
 - What do you want to share with them when they come to visit? (Consider children visiting and adults visiting.)
4. Have the children gather a few things from around the house they would want to share with guests who will visit in the coming week. Put them in the basket you designated and place this basket near the space where people will gather.
5. Children can color and decorate a sign you make from construction paper that says “Share with Us.” Tape this to the front of the basket.
6. Ask your child(ren): How would you want to remember who came to visit you when it’s years from now? (They might say take photos, write down memories, etc).
7. Take the blank book, and write on the front “Welcome to Our Guests.” Have the child(ren) decorate the cover (you may want to help them use some Chanukah stamps and stickers).
8. Explain to them that you will ask each guest to put their names on a blank page and write in the Guest Book a few favorite memories from their visit. Decide as a family where you will place the book during the coming holiday week.
9. You can take photos of your child(ren) and your guests from that visit and print them on photo paper to be glued into the book. Remember to save room on the page if you are going to do this.
10. Please remember to upload photos and/or videos to your social media platforms using the hashtag #ShineALight.