

Let's Celebrate!

# SIBAH L'MESIBAH

סיבה למסיבה

Everybody loves a party, whether it's to celebrate a birthday or any other occasion. There's a saying in Hebrew—*sibah l'mesibah*, a reason for a party. As in: who needs a reason? It's always time to celebrate!

Every day we learn together can feel like a party. Here are some ideas about ways to infuse Israeli spirit into your celebrations—whether the occasion is a birthday party, a Yom Ha'atzmaut extravaganza, or any other *sibah l'mesibah*.

## ISRAELI BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Israeli birthday parties are always lively affairs. Many families bring entertainers or take children to attractions, just like they do in North America, but lots of traditions and games still figure prominently in children's celebrations. Bring some Israeli traditions to your celebrations—everyone will love the results!



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## DECORATIONS AND REFRESHMENTS

### KISHUT VEKIBUD | קישוט וכבוד

Use balloons and streamers to create an Israeli birthday party environment. Beyond that, you can create a decorated space for a birthday party, or you can go the minimalist route and celebrate around a table on the porch or under the shade of a tree. If you want to go all-out, you'll want lots of colorful balloons, and participants can help make streamers out of chains made of construction paper.

## BIRTHDAY CROWN

### KETER YOM HULEDET | כֵּתֶר יוֹם הַלֵּדָת

At any traditional Israeli birthday party, the honoree wears a crown made of flowers and sits on a chair that's been decorated to look like a royal throne. Friends dance around the throne, and raise the birthday kid in the air—once for each year, plus one more for good luck!

#### *How to Make a Birthday Crown:*

- > Use a string or a long, thin branch as the base.
- > Tie it into a circle sized to fit on a participant's head.
- > Decorate it with leaves and flowers.
- > The more extravagant—the better!

When it comes to birthday party refreshments, all kids are alike, aren't they? Bake a birthday cake and decorate it with the participant's name in Hebrew and English. All other assorted snacks will surely be devoured.



## SONGS

### SHIRIM | שירים

There are many, many birthday songs in easy Hebrew, and lots of videos help make them accessible. Here are some classics that you can teach your participants—just make copies and pass them around.

#### TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

Today is (your) b-day,  
today is (your) b-day,  
today is (your) b-day,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

He/she's got a joyous holiday,  
A set of flowers blooms for him/her,  
today is (your) b-day,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### HAYOM YOM HULEDET

Hayom yom huledet  
hayom yom huledet  
hayom yom huledet  
Le\_\_\_\_\_.

Chag lo/lah same'ach  
vezer lo/lah pore'ach  
hayom yom huledet  
Le\_\_\_\_\_.

#### היום יום הולדת

היום יום הולדת  
היום יום הולדת  
היום יום הולדת  
\_\_\_\_\_ל

חג לך/לה שמח  
וזר לך/לה פורח  
היום יום הולדת  
\_\_\_\_\_ל

#### WHERE'S THE CAKE

There's no celebration  
without a cake  
(x2)

Where  
oh where is the cake?!  
(x2)

#### EIFO HA'UGAH

Ein ein ein chagigah  
bli bli bli bli ugah  
(x2)

Eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo  
eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo ha'ugah?!  
(x2)

#### איפה העוגה?

אין אין אין חגיגה  
בלי בלי בלי בלי עוגה  
אין אין אין חגיגה  
בלי בלי בלי בלי עוגה

אז... איפה איפה איפה איפה איפה  
איפה איפה איפה  
איפה איפה איפה איפה העוגה?!



Birthday Games

# MIS'CHAKEI YOM HULEDET

משחקי יום הולדת



In the early days of Israel, parties tended to be simple, homegrown affairs, with games that parents could organize on their own. In a trend that can best be called retro, these old-fashioned birthday parties are all the rage today. Bring a selection of these games to your participants!

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## GAME 1: PASS THE PACKAGE

### HAVILA OVERET | חבילה עוברת

Fill a small box with enough little prizes to match the number of participants who will participate. Then, wrap the box in layers of colorful wrapping paper. You can use newspaper, construction paper, or any other kind of wrapping that's available. Wrap the package in enough layers so that every participant gets a chance to unwrap one layer.

When you're ready to play the game, participants sit in a circle, and as Israeli music plays in the background they pass the package around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the package unwraps one layer. Repeat until the last layer of wrapping comes off. Let the birthday celebrant open the box and distribute prizes to everyone.

## GAME 2: MUSICAL CHAIRS

### KISA'OT MUSIKALIM | כסאות מוזיקליים

You know how to play this old favorite. Use Hebrew music and it'll fit right into your Israeli birthday party!



#### Tip

Have the participant whose birthday is being celebrated help make the package.



#### Tip

Use Pass the Package as a prelude to any number of other activities. You could, for instance, put a clue for a scavenger hunt inside the box.

### GAME 3: BALLOON GAMES

#### MIS'HAKEI BALLONIM | משחקי בלונים

Kids love balloons. Here are two ways to use them in an Israeli birthday party. We're sure you'll come up with more ideas!

- > Divide participants into pairs and have them stand back-to-back. Each pair receives a blown-up balloon and they need to squeeze it between them until it pops.
- > If you have archery targets, hang water-filled balloons on them and have participants take turns trying to pop them.

### GAME 4: EGG RACES

#### MERUTZ BEITZAH | מרוץ ביצה

Everybody stands in a line. Give each participant a spoon and instruct them to hold it in their mouths. Put a raw egg into each spoon. When someone calls "start," everyone races toward the finish line. The first person to get there with their egg intact is the winner.

### GAME 5: TUG OF WAR

#### MESHICHAT HEVEL | משרכת חבל

You know this game from your own childhood. Surprise! Israeli kids love it as much as North Americans do.

### GAME 6: DANGER! MUMMY!

#### ZEHIRUT! MUMMIA! | זהירות! מומייה!

Participants divide into pairs, and each pair gets a roll of toilet paper. One partner wraps the other from head to toe. Whichever pair finishes first wins a prize.

### GAME 7: FIND THE SWEETS

#### EIFO HASUKARIA? | איפה הסוכריה?

Place a small candy on a plate and cover it with flour. Prepare enough plates so every participant has one. Challenge them to find the surprise—without using their hands! You'll want to play this game outside, and encourage everyone not to be afraid of getting dirty.



#### Tip

*If you're worried about making a mess—don't be! You can use small potatoes or bouncy balls instead of eggs. You can also use hard-boiled eggs...even if you don't tell the participants they're not raw!*



#### Tip

*This game can also be played as a relay race, making it a collaborative competition.*

Celebrate

# ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY

On May 14th, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence, marking the first time in nearly 2,000 years that Jews had a sovereign independent homeland to call their own. While very few of us may remember a world without Israel, let's not take it for granted. Here are some ideas for celebrating Israel's Independence Day. You can use them for an exciting special day program or spread them throughout several weeks or months.

1. In a camp setting, dedicate Color War to a celebration of Israel's Independence Day. Teams can be named after Israeli cities, sports teams, or personalities, and Israeli and North American staff can work together to adapt games and goals to Israeli locations. Add Hebrew words into the instructions for the day's activities, and award the winning team with an Israeli birthday party.
2. Use the Israel Resource Cards to create a scavenger hunt that takes groups of participants all over as they learn about significant aspects of Israel. You can choose one category of cards, or you can mix it up.
3. Add a few contemporary Israeli songs into Hebrew lessons, song sessions, or any celebration. Check out our [Israeli Music Playlists](#) for ideas!
4. Use the birthday party games we've shared to hold a birthday party for Israel. Set up stations where participants can play all of the games, and add stations where they can decorate ice cream maps of Israel, play games, and more.

