

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 at camp can feel like a party. This package offers ideas about ways to infuse Israeli spirit into your camp 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 camp celebrations—everyone will love the results!

## WHAT'S IN THE PACKAGE

- > How to run Israeli birthday party games
- > Ideas for Israeli decorations, birthday crowns, and cakes
- > Hebrew song playlist to liven up any celebration
- > Party favors, including balloons and streamers in Hebrew



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## DECORATIONS AND REFRESHMENTS

### KISHUT VEKIBUD | קישוט וכבוד

Use the balloons and streamers included in this package to create an Israeli birthday party environment. Beyond that, you can work hard to 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 campers can help make streamers out of chains made of construction paper.

## BIRTHDAY CROWN

### KETER YOM HULEDET | כֵּתֶר יוֹם הַלֵּדֶת

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 camper'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? Get the kitchen to bake a birthday cake, and decorate it with the camper'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 campers—just make copies and pass them around. Ask your Israeli counselors to help teach the songs.

#### 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

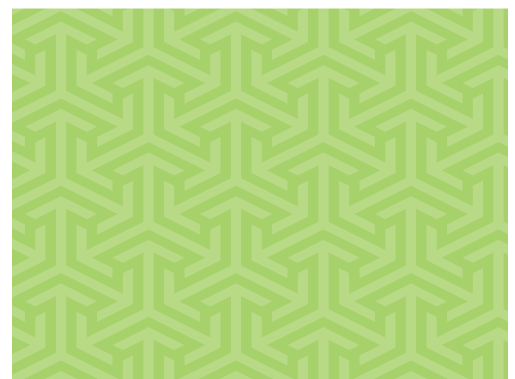
There's no celebration  
without a cake  
(x2)  
Where  
oh where is the cake?!  
(x2)

#### EIFO HA'UGAH

Ein ein ein chagigah  
bli bli bli bli uguh  
(x2)  
Eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo  
eifo eifo eifo eifo eifo ha'ugah?!  
(x2)

#### איפה העוגה?

אין אין חגיגה  
בלי בלי בלי בלי עוגה  
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 camp!

Every day at camp can feel like a party. This package offers ideas about ways to infuse Israeli spirit into your camp celebrations—whether the occasion is a birthday party, a Yom Ha'atzmaut extravaganza, or any other sibah le'mesibah.

## GAME 1: PASS THE PACKAGE

### HAVILA OVERET | חבילה עוברת

Fill a small box with enough little prizes to match the number of campers 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 camper gets a chance to unwrap one layer.

When you're ready to play the game, campers 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 in to your Israeli birthday party!



#### Tip

*Ask Israeli staff members to share some from their childhood, or make up your own.*



#### Tip

*Have the camper 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 campers 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.
- > Hang water-filled balloons on the archery targets and campers take turns trying to pop them.

### GAME 4: EGG RACES

#### MERUTZ BEITZAH | מרוץ ביצה

Everybody stands in a line. Give each camper 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! מומיה!

Campers 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 camper 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 campers 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 the summer.

1. 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 campers all over camp 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 to song session. Israeli and North American staff can work together to choose the new songs and to teach them to campers.
4. Use the birthday party games we've shared to hold a campwide birthday party for Israel. Set up stations where campers can play all of the games, and add stations where they can decorate ice cream maps of Israel, play games based on the Israel Resource Cards, and more.

