

JUST FOR KIDS - JANUARY 2026

JANUARY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY – JANUARY 1, 2026

NEW YEARS DAY (ages 7-10) **video**

On January 1st, many cultures celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next. Some people make resolutions for the new year or attend parties to celebrate. Watch this short video to learn about this holiday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rOL4OzrhEs>

FUN FACTS ABOUT NEW YEAR'S (ages 8-12) **text**

This year, 2024, is coming to an end. On January 1st, we begin the year 2025. There is so much fascinating New Year's history to consider. Like, how did the idea of Baby New Year come about? When was the very first ball drop in Times Square? Check out this site to learn 25 fun facts about New Year's.

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/g4933/new-years-facts/>

NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD (ages 7-12) **video**

Watch this video to visit different countries and see some interesting ways people celebrate the arrival of the new year. Smashing dishes, dancing in bear costumes, wearing certain colors of underwear, and smashing pomegranates are some of the traditions. Learn where these traditions are carried out and the meaning behind them.

<https://youtu.be/DDNOTBIFWWY>

TOOTH TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

True, this is not related to New Year/s, but we thought you would enjoy learning about another event that kids celebrate differently around the world:

THROW YOUR TOOTH ON THE ROOF by Selby Beeler (ages 4-7) **Read aloud**

What do you do when you lose a baby tooth? Throw it on the roof? Bury it in the ground? Wait for a mouse to take it away? Maybe you will start a new tradition after reading this book! In this book you will learn about some of the traditions for losing a tooth that are followed by children around the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5C1qmmvkic>

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – JANUARY 19, 2026

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. (ages 7-10) **video**

On the third Monday in January, we honor the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was a civil rights leader who used peaceful ways to get equal rights for all. This short video will tell you more about this leader of the civil rights movement and about how we honor him today.

<https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/8cb55681-9129-467d-96e6-0bd7b5bd16e5/martin-luther-king-day-all-about-the-holidays/>

I HAVE A DREAM (ages 8 and up) **video**

This is actual video of Dr. King giving his famous speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for civil and economic rights and an end to racism in the United States.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s>

LEARN ABOUT SHABBAT

SHALOM SESAME: SHABBAT SHALOM GROVER (ages 4-7) **video**

It's almost Shabbat! Everyone is busy getting ready for the holiday but Grover doesn't know what "Shabbat" is. Shoshanna shows Grover the meaning of Shabbat by including Grover in the preparations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucEIPOxR-bs>

SHALOM SESAME: CELEBRATING SHABBAT (ages 4-7) **video**

Follow a kindergartner in Tel Aviv as she shows you how she and her classmates get ready for Shabbat.

https://youtu.be/k5UQXz_wHmQ

STORIES

NEW YEAR'S

SQUIRREL'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTION by Pat Miller (ages 4-6) **Read aloud**

It is the start of the new year and all of the animals in the forest have made their New Year's resolutions, everyone except Squirrel. She starts off by asking Bear what a resolution is and if he has one. Bear explains what a resolution is and tells Squirrel what his resolution is. Squirrel feels determined to come up with a resolution after talking to Bear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPRZZFWO5W4>

MARTIN LUTHER KING

I AM MARTIN LUTHER KING JR by Brad Meltzer (ages 5-8) **Read aloud**

As a child, Martin Luther King, Jr. was shocked by the terrible and unfair way African American people were treated. When he grew up, he decided to do something about it—peacefully, with powerful words. Listen to Martin tell story in this book.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xajQz49mRU>

A PICTURE BOOK OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. by David A. Adler (ages 7-10) **Read aloud**

Learn how Martin's childhood experiences sparked his interest in equality and how he helped to change things in America.

<https://youtu.be/x6orRByAzBc>

MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: THE LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. by Doreen Rappaport

(ages 7-10) **Read aloud**

Martin grew up in a place where people used words that made him feel bad. Let's see how Martin was able to use words to help people and make the world a better place.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc39Ka8ut6k>

SHABBAT

***FRIDAYS ARE SPECIAL** by Chris Barash (ages 4-7) **Read aloud**

Fridays are not like other days. Fridays are special! There's challah to bake, dinner to cook, family to greet, and lots of cozy fun to be had, all in preparation for Shabbat. Listen to this sweet rhyming book about this special day of the week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY0rh7QuT08>

**You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

***THE SABBATH LION** retold by Howard Schwartz (ages 8-12) **Read aloud**

In this Jewish folktale from Algeria, young Yosef makes a long journey by caravan to claim an inheritance for his family. But the cruel-hearted leader refuses to stop for the Sabbath. Yosef is afraid to leave the caravan, but his devotion keeps him from going on, and he stays alone and prays. Then something wonderful happens...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3FUgfW7vYg>

**You can borrow this book from our synagogue library*

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

NEW YEAR'S SONG

A NEW YEAR'S SONG FOR KIDS! (ages 5-8)

This is a great song to do as a round. "Cheer the year" and sing this New Year song to bring in the new year!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka1E7g9z3EQ>

SHABBAT SONGS

OSEH SHALOM (all ages)

This is the Jewish prayer for peace, and in this karaoke style lyrics video, you and your parents can learn all the words. There are lots of versions of Oseh Shalom, this one is a traditional Israeli melody by Nurit Hirsch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ODQuc6PzVk>

IT'S SHABBAT! (ages 4-6)

If you know "Baby Shark," you already know the tune to this song. Watch the Maccabeats, a Jewish a cappella group, sing a Shabbat parody of Baby Shark. Then join the fun and sing along.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCwOQnIlnnU>

SHABBAT SHALOM - HEY! (THE BIM BAM SONG) (ages 4-8)

In this video, you can learn the popular Shabbat Shalom HEY song and get the family in the mood for Friday night dinner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHrlizly-S8>

Check this out:

CHILDREN'S BOOKS THAT CORRELATE WITH THIS MONTH'S TOPICS AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY

SHABBAT

1. Havdalah Sky, A Poem for the End of Shabbat, Chris Barash (**board book**)
2. Fridays Are Special, Chris Barash (**FICTION**)
3. The Cricket and the Ant, Naomi Ben-Gur (**FICTION**)
4. In the Market of Zakrobat, Ori Elon (**FICTION**)
5. No Baths At Camp, Tamar Fox (**FICTION**)
6. Shai's Shabbat Walk, Elilie Gellman (**board book**)
7. This is the Challah, Sue Hepker (**FICTION**)
8. The Friday Nights of Nana, Amy Hest (**FICTION**)
9. Joseph and the Sabbath Fish, Eric Kimmel (**FICTION**)
10. Clarence's Topsy-Turvey Shabbat, Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod (**FICTION**)
11. Many Days, One Shabbat, Fran Manushkin (**FICTION**)
12. Shabbat Shalom, (20 festive songs) Cindy Paley (**NONFICTION**)
13. The Schmutzy Family, Madelyn Rosenberg (**FICTION**)
14. The Kiddish Cup Who Hated Wine, Byrd Salop (**FICTION**)
15. Mrs. Moskowitz and the Sabbath Candlesticks, Amy Schwartz (**FICTION**)
16. The Sabbath Lion, A Jewish Folktale from Algeria, Retold by Howard Schwartz and Barbara Rush (**FICTION**)
17. Yitzi The Trusty Tractor, Naomi Shulman (**FICTION**)
18. Let's Celebrate Shabbat, Adam Siegel editor (**NONFICTION**)
19. The Shabbat Box, Leslie Simpson (**FICTION**)