

JUST FOR KIDS – JULY 2026

JULY HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4th

July 4th is Independence Day, the day in which we celebrate America's independence from the British! How do you celebrate America's birthday?

JULY 4th STORY(ages 5-7) **animated**

Join this little girl as her grandpa explains how this holiday started and why it is important today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoNlsoqT5s0>

LEARN ABOUT JULY 4TH – INDEPENDENCE DAY (ages 7 and up) **video**

Explore the origins of the holiday and why we celebrate it with this fun, short video.

<https://youtu.be/BvS58YqMzRM>

4TH OF JULY FACTS FOR KIDS (ages 7 and up) **video**

Get ready for fun 4th of July facts in this video for kids and adults alike! Learn some interesting facts about the 4th of July, like how many hot dogs are eaten in America on the 4th, or how many people travel by car for Independence Day (another name for the 4th of July), and even some history on this very special holiday!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32jRXh4BCC4>

STORIES

4TH OF JULY

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FOURTH OF JULY by Natasha Wings (ages 6-8) **Read aloud**

It's the night before the Fourth of July and all across the United States people are getting ready for hot dogs and fireworks. Through cute rhymes and beautiful pictures, you can follow this family as they participate in many of the exciting activities of this holiday.

<https://youtu.be/umq9oMC7hy4>

5 FUN FACTS ABOUT FIREWORKS (ages 10 and up) **Video**

Put on your safety gear, because we're about to shoot off 5 totally explosive, totally true facts about FIREWORKS!! From the first Independence Day party, to ancient Chinese roman candle fights, we've got everything you need to know about fireworks!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3Xoy7BOM98>

SUMMERTIME

SUMMER! (ages 4-6) **Nonfiction Read aloud**

As the season changes into summer, what changes what do you see around you? This story will tell you all about what makes summer different and what things you can do in summer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSVQz5VuNGM>

ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER VACATION by Tish Rabe (ages 5-7) **Read aloud**

What do you do on summer vacation? There are so many summer activities to look forward to! This story has fun rhymes and repetition that tell about the first 12 days of vacation. What things in the story are activities that you do?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vADGQCUNIQ>

FIREFLIES by Julie Brinkloe (ages 5 and up) **Read aloud**

Have you ever seen fireflies flickering on and off on a summer night? In this story, a boy catches a jarful of fireflies. At first they make a beautiful light in his room, but then he notices something happening and has to make a difficult decision.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6gQ97oigQo>

ICE CREAM SUMMER by Peter Sis (ages 7-10) **Read aloud**

Joe is writing letters to his Grandpa about how hard he is studying over the summer. But the pictures give a whole different meaning to his words! Like a game of “I Spy,” see if you can see how he puts ice cream into almost every picture. A funny book!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eF2UaWa3BI0>

MUSIC and MOVEMENT

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT SESAME VERSION (ages 3-5) **video**

Sing along and move to *If You're Happy and You Know It!* with Elmo, Rosita, and Abby. It's like Simon Says but with music.

<https://youtu.be/LDP08F3op80>

IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT SING ALONG (ages 5-7) **Animated video**

Does summertime make you happy? How can you use your body to move and show it? Sing and move along with this happy video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71hqRT9U0wg>

MOVE AND FREEZE (ages 6-10) **video**

Here's a chance to move your body in any silly way you want. Then follow the caller's directions. You'll have a good laugh when you see what everyone looks like when they have to “freeze”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=388Q44ReOWE>

AMERICA TO ME sung by Jack Hartman (ages 5-10) **Video**

Celebrate our United States of America, as you sing along with Jack about all the things that make this country great and what makes us proud to live in the United States of America. What do you love about America?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oex3j_9AhGA

THE FIFTY NIFTY UNITED STATES (ages 7 and up) **Video**

This is a fun song to help you learn the names and location of the states. Children have been singing this song for many years—Ask your parents if they remember singing it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hhe9ogtNdOg>

NOW TRY IT YOURSELF! (ages 10 and up) **Video**

After singing along with the Fifty Nifty song a few times, try this site where you can sing along to the music (Don't worry, the words will still be on the screen)

<https://youtu.be/WXflz64s8y8>

JULY 4th CRAFTS AND FOOD

STRING OF STARS (ages 6 with help, and up)

Make a decorative string of stars to celebrate July 4th or any patriotic US holiday. Make it as long as you want – you can decorate an entire room with this patriotic (and simple) craft.

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/stringofstars/>

JULY 4TH PATRIOTIC SNACK MIX (ages 6 and up)

This easy snack mix is pretty to look at and yummy to eat. You can add in any red, white, and blue treats that you like!

<https://mommyevolution.com/patriotic-snack-mix-recipe/>

PATRIOTIC FRUIT SPARKLERS (ages 7 and up)

These fruit sparklers because will remind you of holding firework sparklers during the summer holidays, and they're patriotic with the watermelon stars on top. They are so simple but make a really fun and easy summer treat.

<https://tastesbetterfromscratch.com/fruit-sparklers/>

MAKE A PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL (ages 8 and up)

(This craft uses a push pin so not suitable for younger children.)

Follow these easy instructions to make a stars and stripes pinwheel that can turn in the breeze on the 4th of July.

<https://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/pinwheel/>

JUDAISM

TZEDAKAH (ages 6-8) **Animated video**

Tzedakah means to give to charity to help the world and those who don't have as much as we do. Watch Gabi and Rafi explain Tzedakah in this episode of Shaboom!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoT5uk8j8Fk>

WHAT IS KOSHER? (7-10)

What do you know about kosher? What makes some foods kosher, and what does kosher mean? Eli will help you get the answers here!

https://www.chabad.org/kids/article_cdo/aid/926235/jewish/What-is-Kosher.htm

WHAT IS KOSHER AND WHY DO WE PRACTICE IT? (10 to adult)

Learn why people keep kosher, the basic rules, how to get started, or how to be thoughtful as a guest in a kosher home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYk0KeYhqYQ&t=45s>

KOSHERMENTARY (ages 10 and up) **Video**

Join Rabbi Kadoozy and Jono as they tour a cookie dough factory and a juice factory in this wacky documentary about the production of Kosher food.

https://www.chabad.org/multimedia/video_cdo/aid/297425/jewish/Koshermentary.htm

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE GROWNUPS

GOODNIGHT BUBBALA by Sheryl Haft (ages 12-adult) **Animated video**

Enjoy this "joyful parody" of Goodnight Moon, a favorite book of families for decades. This is a delightful and joyful celebration of Jewish culture with lots of Yiddish words sprinkled throughout.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZOx3wRPbP0>

Check this out:

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

JUDAISM - CUSTOMS AND LAWS

1. My Brother's Bar Mitzvah, Janet Gallant (**FICTION**)
2. Daddy's Store, What Makes Meat Kosher, A Children's Guide, Mary Glick (**NONFICTION**)
3. Sam and Charlie (And Sam Too) Help Save the Earth, Leslie Kimmelman (**FICTION**)
4. When A Grandparent Dies (A Kid's Own Remembering Workbook for Dealing with Shiva and the Year Beyond), Nechama Liss-Levinson. Ph.D. (**2 copies**) (**NONFICTION**)
5. No Rules for Michael, Sylvia A. Rouss (**FICTION**)

6. Ten Good Rules, Susan Remick Topek (**NONFICTION**)