



## ELLA'S TRIP TO ISRAEL

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*A little girl named Ella travels through Israel with her parents, enjoying many sights. With her is her best friend, her stuffed monkey, Koofi, whose misadventures are never a problem.*

With Ella's Trip to Israel, you will quickly note both differences and similarities with your life and life in Israel.

Since children are often fascinated by comparisons, you might:

- compare Ella's trip to Israel to a recent car, train, or bus ride your family took;
- make a side-by-side taste test of your children's usual drink with mango juice (available in many grocery stores);
- visit a local farmers' market or roadside vegetable stand, contrasting what's available with some of the items Ella saw in Israel

Though very young children may not immediately identify with the places in Israel depicted in this book, they can experience pleasure from this exposure to things Israeli.

As you read, engage your little ones with the illustrations: invite them to close their eyes and picture their plane taking off; pantomime drinking sweet juice from a glass; pretend to touch the stones of the Kotel; crane to see the very tops of Tel Aviv's skyscrapers; imagine smelling the salty air of the Mediterranean; or make believe that the lathery soap in tonight's bath is really mud from the Dead Sea. And because many little things can go wrong during the day, be prepared with the handy Hebrew phrase "eyn ba-aya" -- no problem!

### ABOUT THE PLACES MENTIONED

#### The Kotel

In Jerusalem, Israel's capital, the Jewish Quarter is home to the Kotel, the Western Wall, a historically significant remnant of the wall that once surrounded the Second Temple, destroyed in 70 C.E. The exposed section of the wall is more than 60 feet tall.

#### Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv (literally, "Spring Mound") was founded as "the first all-Jewish city in Modern times" in 1909. Situated on the coast of the Mediterranean, Tel Aviv is a very popular tourist destination and is as bustling and busy as any big American city.

#### The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea (actually a salt-water lake) contains water so salty that people float without effort and fish can't live. The Dead Sea marks the lowest elevation anywhere on Earth.

#### Kibbutz

A *kibbutz* is a collective settlement. In earlier times, a kibbutz often had shared property and centered on agriculture; now, many have become centers for tourism, with guest accommodations and recreational facilities.