



THE BALL OF CLAY THAT ROLLED AWAY

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During pottery day at Camp Knish, a ball of clay manages to escape from the children who plan to mold it into various Jewish ritual objects. Finally, the clay reaches an unusual end.

The children at Camp Knish are about to begin their clay creations when the ball of clay decides to run away. The campers begin a merry chase after the elusive ball of clay through the camp grounds.

This feisty clay encounters campers and staff busy enjoying camp activities such as dance, sports, and gardening. Though everyone imagines the beautiful ritual objects they hope to make with this clay, the ball ultimately escapes them all!

JEWISH RITUAL OBJECTS

As the children chase the ball of clay, they see some uniquely Jewish objects throughout the campgrounds. This story can provide a great opportunity for you to introduce these objects to your children as well. A few of them include:

- **Kiddush cup:** *Kiddush* (sanctification) is the prayer recited over a cup of wine or grape juice, before the Sabbath or festival meal.
- **Menorah:** A nine-branched candelabrum lit during the holiday of *Hanukkah*.
- **Mezuzah:** A decorative case containing a piece of parchment or paper with Hebrew verses beginning with *Shema* (Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.) The *mezuzah* is found attached to the doorpost of many Jewish homes.

- **Yad (hand):** A pointer, shaped like a long rod, with a small hand and index finger pointing from it. The *yad* is used to point to the text during the reading of the Torah scroll.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Studies have shown that children who participate in Jewish summer programs or camps are more likely to remain involved in the Jewish community for the long term. You and your children can explore Jewish concepts through camp activities, like the ones shown in the book, in the informal setting of your own home. Here are a couple ideas:

Provide your child with a ball of non-toxic clay and some basic tools such as a small rolling pin, spoon or other age-appropriate tools that make interesting marks and help manipulate the clay. Choose an item from the book and talk about what its meaning is. Allow your child to explore the clay, imagine and create!

Planting a garden is a wonderful ongoing project. In the spring, start a small garden (or window box!) with your children. Depending on your climate you can plant food to eat later in the summer, or flowers to decorate your *Shabbat* table. Another option is a Biblical garden with the plants and shrubs that grew in ancient times. Pj