



HOW DALIA PUT A BIG YELLOW COMFORTER INSIDE A TINY BLUE BOX

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As Dalia explores tzedakah with her friends, she creates a tzedakah box where she can keep the money she's saving to help those in need. In the process Dalia, her friends and her little brother Yossi learn about the power and joy of giving to others.

Some people think of the word *tzedakah* as a synonym for charity; however, this Hebrew word means something greater. *Tzedakah* is an act of justice or fairness; it is the proper thing to do. Even very young children can learn and begin to take part in acts of *tzedakah*. *How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box* helps to introduce young children to the meaning of *tzedakah* and the importance of giving.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Consider displaying a *tzedakah* box in a prominent place in your home. Use and enjoy it by setting regular times for your family to drop in a few coins: birthdays, before *Shabbat* dinner, Jewish and secular holidays, or on other happy occasions—the birth of a baby, a graduation, or a family visit. In this way, children associate their own happiness and sharing with those less fortunate.

Like Dalia and her friends, your family may choose in advance how to use your *tzedakah* funds. Your children might draw pictures or cut photos from a magazine of the things you plan to purchase and donate. Encourage your children to help purchase and deliver the items. This will provide an understanding of what their money can accomplish as well as an opportunity to experience the joy and satisfaction of participating in acts of *tzedakah*.

MAKE A TZEDAKAH BOX

Any container can act as a *tzedakah* box. A tea or coffee can covered by construction paper and decorated with stickers or markers makes a perfectly acceptable *tzedakah* box. *Tzedakah* boxes can be made from milk cartons and jelly jars, etched silver or cut glass.

What is important is the understanding of what the box represents, what good it can bring about, and what its use implies. Remember, too, that *tzedakah* doesn't need to involve cash. Donating outgrown clothing and toys in good condition and contributing home-baked goods for a fundraiser are also acts of *tzedakah*. Giving begun at an early age sets a practice that can last a lifetime. From Dalia and Yossi we see that children often learn important lessons from each other; whenever possible, give your children the opportunity to participate in acts of *tzedakah* with their peers. Pj

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