

I LOVE CAMP

Written by Todd Parr

Illustrated by Todd Parr

With his unique illustrations and peppy text, Todd Parr shows the active, fun-filled summer that a Jewish camp offers.

In some ways, to be Jewish is to be a member of a huge worldwide family. Like a family, the Jewish people enjoy a shared history, a common language (though many of us aren't fluent!), and many customs. Jewish summer camps provide a safe, warm community where children can meet and experience their larger Jewish family. Friendships formed at camp often last into adulthood; camp activities commonly become life-long favorites; music and songs learned at summer camp are remembered and later passed down to the next generation; shared Jewish stories leave a lasting impression. Jewish summer camps are places where Judaism comes alive with action, fun, and new experiences. As this book by Todd Parr shows, Jewish summer camp is THE place to be for a rollicking good time!


WHY LOVE CAMP?

One reason to love camp is the opportunity to make new friends. Jewish tradition teaches us that is good to acquire friends (*re-ut* in Hebrew) and to be part of a community—a *kehillah*. Friendships grow best with frequent contact, which children enjoy through daily interactions at camp.

Another reason is that camping simply makes people feel happy. The Hebrew word for happiness—*simcha*—has

a broad range of meaning. It implies exuberant rejoicing, contentment, peacefulness, and appreciation of beauty. All of these are part of the Jewish camp experience, which is why it has such influence on lifelong Jewish engagement.

PJ GOES TO CAMP

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