



NOSH, SCHLEP, SCHLUFF: BABYIDDISH

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Little ones are introduced to the delightful sounds of Yiddish in this board book, while parents learn or are reminded of some commonly-used Yiddishisms.

Yiddish began as a primarily spoken language around the 10th century C.E. and spread throughout Eastern and Central Europe. It was once the language of Ashkenazi Jews (those of Eastern and Central European descent). Yiddish is referred to as the *mameloschen* (mother tongue) of the Jewish people. At the height of its usage, approximately 11 million of the world's 18 million Jews understood Yiddish. In 19th and 20th century New York, an incredible fount of Yiddish literature, music and theater developed. Estimates are that there are fewer than 250,000 Yiddish speakers in the U.S. today, but the language is experiencing resurgence in colleges and universities across the country and there are more than 100 newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts and websites in Yiddish.

A YIDDISH GLOSSARY

Here are some of the Yiddish terms and their English definitions used in *Nosh, Schlep, Schluff*.

- *kibitz*: verbal joking
- *nu*: So? Well? What's up?
- *schmooze*: chat; talk
- *tuches*: tush; bottom; rear end
- *klutz*: clumsy person
- *nosh*: eat a little something; snack
- *ess*: eat
- *kissel*: kiss
- *bissel*: a little bit

- *schlepping*: carrying; dragging
- *kvetchy*: in a complaining mood; whiney
- *plotz*: collapse
- *schluff*: sleep; nap

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Nosh, Schlep, Schluff is a great book to share with your children about as you look through it. Little ones love paging through books illustrated with children and animals. Point out the bright colors and the animals. Ask your little ones to find or count specific toys and other objects on a page. Your children will likely enjoy making the sounds that go along with different animals, especially the frog and duck that appear on almost every page.

In addition to those found in this book, there are many Yiddish words used in the English language. We're all used to hearing and understanding words such as *kosher*, *chutzpah*, *glitch*, *shmutz*, *schmaltz*, *maven*, *yente*, and *tchatchke*. Repeat these words and others to your little ones and incorporate them into your everyday language. If you are fortunate enough to know someone who speaks Yiddish, ask how that person came to know the language. There is likely a fascinating Jewish story waiting to be shared.

Take advantage of the wealth of songs written in Yiddish by going to your local library or contacting a synagogue or Jewish community center. Chances are they will be able to connect you with some sweet music for your entire family to enjoy. Pj