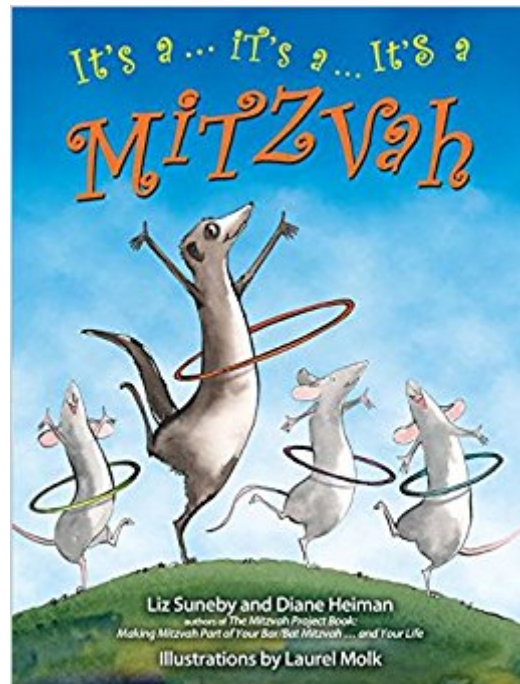




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# It's A ... It's A ... It's A Mitzvah



## Synopsis

A fun-filled introduction to the joys of doing good deeds and mitzvot. Join Mitzvah Meerkat and friends as they introduce children to the everyday kindnesses that mark the beginning of a Jewish journey and a lifetime commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world). Through lively illustrations and playful dialogue, children engage with Jewish wisdom as they share in welcoming new friends, forgiving mistakes, respecting elders, sharing food with the hungry, and much, much more.

## Book Information

Series: P J Library

Hardcover: 38 pages

Publisher: Jewish Lights; 1 edition (May 1, 2012)

Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #716,934 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #119 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism](#) #200 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish](#)

Age Range: 3 - 6 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 1

## Customer Reviews

The creators of The Mitzvah Project Book (2011) team up to introduce young audiences to the concept of performing acts of loving kindness and tikkun olam (repairing the world). Mitzvah Meerkat notes examples of these good deeds in the activities of his animal buddies: welcoming new friends, sharing food, helping the elderly, forgiving mistakes, taking care of the earth, caring for the sick, giving to charity, making peace, enjoying Shabbat, and honoring parents. Situations and vocabulary are age appropriate (‘‘Peter, I found your mitten!’’, ‘‘Thank you. Has anyone seen my glasses?’’, and Meerkat refrain ‘‘It’s a . . . it’s a . . . it’s a mitzvah!’’) will encourage audience participation. Molk’s energetic cartoon illustrations (featuring friendly monkeys, bears, deer, beavers, kangaroos, rabbits, zebras, and sheep involved in everyday pursuits) enhance the text’s

upbeat message and make this a good choice for religious school read-alouds. Preschool-Grade 1.  
--Kay Weisman

It's a ... It's a ... It's a Mitzvah by Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman (illustrated by Laurel Molk; Jewish Lights, 32 pp. \$18.99), in few words and with apt illustrations, effortlessly teaches these powerful lessons. (Hadassah Magazine 2012-10-22)undefined (Christine Maasdam Jewish Book Council 2012-12-29)One look at the cover and joy abounds! Dancing mice and a wise meerkat draw you into a world of mitzvah. Simple everyday activities demonstrate how easily a mitzvah can be accomplished all while teaching Torah and Talmud. The world of mitzvah is all about 'the doing'. The playful characters welcome new friends, share their food with the hungry, help the elderly, visit the sick, provide tzedakah, promote peace, honor their parents and celebrate Shabbat. The wise meerkat reminds us at each event that a lesson is being learned by singing his refrain of "It's a mitzvah". The illustrations are so engaging that the animals' feelings of kindness and concern are immediately conveyed to a child and the authors' well-chosen words speak directly to a child's heart. [It's a ... It's a ... It's a Mitzvah] is a delightfully sensitive and yet powerful means to introduce the concept of mitzvah to a child or to a class. Highly recommended for children ages 2 to 8. (Christine Maasdam Jewish Book Council 2012-12-29)undefined (Lisa Silverman The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles 2012-09-05) If your kids haven't heard of Mitzvah Meerkat and all his animal friends, then it's time to introduce them to this delightfully illustrated picture book. The authors were inspired by a well-known Talmud teaching relating the importance of various good deeds, such as honoring parents, visiting the sick, helping the needy, bringing peace between people and more. The lively animal characters joyously perform many mitzvot that children can easily relate to, and the clever layout helps parents introduce the Jewish concepts of performing good deeds in an age-appropriate manner. The title refers to the rhythmic refrain that can be chanted for fun by kids during a story-time session, but the whimsical pen-and-ink watercolor drawings are the highlight of this engaging way to introduce children to acts of loving kindness. Thankfully not preachy or otherwise didactic, the lessons are cute and contemporary. (The sheep are knitting scarves, the monkeys play on monkey bars, etc.) This is an excellent book for the preschool classroom, but the cuteness factor of the animals' antics will ensure that parents at home will also get lots of pleasure in learning great Jewish values and passing them on to future generations. (Lisa Silverman The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles 2012-09-05)undefined (Publishers Weekly 2012-05-22)Lively illustrations help convey the importance of doing a mitzvah (literally, God's

commandment, and more broadly understood as a good deed) in a feel-good volume introducing young readers to this fundamental Jewish concept. Mitzvah Meerkat accompanies bears, beavers, kangaroos, and other friendly creatures as they make the most of every opportunity to help each other and improve the world. As groups of animals resolve their problems, Mitzvah Meerkat cheers them on. When one zebra complains that another zebra is taking too long with the hula hoop, a third zebra chimes in that "there's no need to start a fight. Give Zoe one more minute. You can have my turn." The Meerkat then observes, "it's a mitzvah to help make peace." Pleasant dialogue and humorous illustrations provide clear-cut situations in which even the youngest participants can learn to do a mitzvah. Ages 3-6. (July) (Publishers Weekly 2012-05-22) undefined (Fred Brussat Spirituality & Practice 2012-06-26) In the Jewish tradition, mitzvah covers a variety of activities done by people who are animated by love, kindness, caring, and sharing. Liz Suneby and Diane Heiman have come up with a playful format for this children's book for those ages 3-6 years of age. A little band of animals respond to the question: "What is a mitzvah?" and then show us what it means through the practices of welcoming new friends, sharing food with the hungry, helping someone who is older, forgiving someone who has made a mistake, taking care of the earth, cheering on your friends, looking after the sick, giving charity, being a peacemaker, sharing the loving spirit of Shabbat, and honoring one's parents. According to Suneby and Heiman, you cannot touch or smell or buy mitzvah but you can experience it again and again as "a warm feeling of happiness in our hearts when we do good deeds. Mitzvah is a way of life." By the time you finish reading this book, delightfully illustrated by Laurel Molk, you will want to click your heels together like the animal characters in the story and then go out to do some good! (Fred Brussat Spirituality & Practice 2012-06-26) "Delightful! An engaging read-aloud for families with young children. Highly recommended!" Dr. Ron Wolfson, Fingerhut Professor of Education, American Jewish University; author, Be Like God: God's To-Do List for Kids; co-author, What You Will See Inside a Synagogue "Delightfully engaging! An accessible, upbeat way for children to discover how much good they can do and how Jewish practice is already woven into the best parts of our lives." Durga Yael Bernhard, author/illustrator, Around the World in One Shabbat: Jewish People Celebrate the Sabbath Together "Offers a fun way to introduce children to the joy of performing good deeds and acts of lovingkindness." Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, author of many children's books, including God's Paintbrush; In God's Name; and The Shema in the Mezuzah "Imagine a Jewish Dr. Seuss, and you get this gorgeous book. What a splendid way to introduce young children to the rich moral vocabulary of Judaism! [It] makes a powerful statement: you're never too young to

be fully engaged with Jewish ideals. Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin, author, For Kids Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Claim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah and Text Messages: A Torah Commentary for Teens

Charming pictures, upbeat and fun rhythm for reading aloud. Engaging book for explaining to a child what a mitzvah is without giving a lecture. More like this please!

What could be better than a book which excites children to do good deeds!!!!!! The repetition of the title keeps the little ones thoroughly engaged in the book. "It's a... It's a... It's a... MITZVAH" becomes their chant throughout the book! WONDERFUL BOOK!

my Grandson loved this book we say to each other "It's a It's a It's a mitzvah" a lot and he giggles with me. but i think the message is getting through. a good book

Super book. Good for younger kids because of the refrain "It's a - It's a - It's a MITZVAH!!!" They love to say it themselves as you read. It's also upbeat and has a good message.

I bought this for my two-year-old granddaughter who just loves it -- if you say, "It's a..." she yells out "Mitzvah!" Whether she understands the concept is another thing but this is one of the few books she's shown real enthusiasm for.

This is an amazing book. So many times I have read children's books that I find disappointing-this one, however, far exceeded my expectations. It is such a treasure of a book, teaching little one's acts of kindness and goodness. I hope to buy and share this book with friends who have children or grandchildren-it is a real WINNER! i highly recommend it.

No matter where your level of observance lies on the spectrum from Reformed to Orthodox, this is a thoroughly enjoyable book for children

Great book for my 2.5 yr son. This books gives him the chance to learn good lessons and enjoy the story.

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The Mitzvah Project Book: Making Mitzvah Part of Your Bar/Bat Mitzvah ... and Your Life A Spiritual

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