

Vesamchta Bchagecha

Sukkot ideas for the whole family

Ushpizin Pantomime

One participant (or more) tells the story of a member of the Ushpizin through movements without speaking and without making any noises. Everyone else needs to guess what the story is and which Ushpizin it is about.

Examples:

Avraham - leaving his father's house to go to Eretz Yisrael, going down to Mitzrayim because of a famine, etc

Yitzchak - digging wells, blessing Yaakov when he is blind, etc

Yaakov - running away from Esav, fighting with an angel, hugging Esav, etc.

Moshe - bringing light home, splitting the Yam Suf with his stick, breaking the luchot, etc

Aharon - making peace, lighting the menorah, bringing some of the makot in Mitzrayim, etc.

Yosef - dreaming dreams, waiting in prison with the butler and the baker, being thrown in a pit, etc.

Dovid - fighting with Goliath, running away from King Shaul, writing sefer Tehillim (Psalms), etc

(You can also act out the ushpizot – you can choose women from the stories in tanach: Sarah, Rivkah, Rachel, Leah, Miriam, Devorah, Rut, Chana, Avigayil, Esther, and more).

Vsamachta Bechagecha

- Go around and tell happy stories that happened to your family or to Am Yisrael (on sukkot and the whole year).
- Think what will make the person to your left happy, and try to do it at some point during the chag (for example: surprise your mother and clean the sukkah, share a game or a candy with your sibling, play ball with your son, etc...).

Sitting in the Sukkah

Sitting in the sukkah - contest - who can sit for the longest in a chair without moving his body at all.

Pile of kids - Everyone sits on chair in the sukkah one on top of the other - and see how many people can fit.

Sukkah musical chairs - Organize chairs in a line and turn on music. As soon as the music stops you have to sit down, whoever does not have a chair is out of the game, and remove another chair. Continue like this until there are two people competing for one chair.

"Who sits" - One person tries to copy the way someone else sits on the chair. Everyone else needs to decide who you are copying.

Hoshanot

“Requests for the new year” - Stand around the tables of the sukkah, and each person needs to give a bracha (Blessing) to himself, the family, or the group in honor of the new year, and then everyone says amen.

Sukkah decorations

Every activity can be played using decorations that are commonly found in the Sukkah. If you do not find a decoration that is appropriate for the game, you can check if a neighbor has an appropriate one or you can make one for next year.

Months of the year - Month competition: which months do the most things happen (agriculturally, holidays, special days, birthdays in the family, tests and more)?

Shivti Yisrael - Check how many people do you know with the names of the Shevatim of Bnei Yisrael, or prepare various objects in the house that are symbols of the Shevatim of Bnei Yisrael (for example: build a tent, build the Choshen from Legos, and more)

Arbah Minim - Create a family dance that is known as the “dance of carrying and shaking.”

Pomegranates - Count how many seeds are in a pomegranate. Before opening guess how many seeds there are in the pomegranate, and then see who's number was closest... and enjoy.

Shivat haminin - Check which of the shivat haminin (seven fruits of Israel) do your family member like, and which they don't like.

A family chain - Make a family chain: hold hands in a line, and then see how you can tangle yourself together.



Chag Sameach!

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