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Purim in Israel: A Month of Joy and Topsy-Turvy Fun



Photo by [Pixabay](#)

March means Purim time! In Israel, the entire country transforms into a joyful celebration, filling streets, schools, and homes with costumes, music, and traditions. Purim is a holiday of joy and in Israel, the excitement builds throughout the Hebrew month of Adar.

As we prepare for Purim, we can help children connect to how the holiday is celebrated in Israel through songs, traditions, and meaningful experiences.

A Whole Month of Happiness!

In Israel, the joy of Purim isn't just for one day—it lasts all month long! A popular song says, “[Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha](#),” which means “When Adar begins, joy increases!”

Song Lyrics:

Mishe Mishe Mishe Mishe (2x)

Mishe Nichnas Adar (2x)

Mishenichnas Adar, Marbim B'Simcha

Mishenichnas Adar, Marbim B'Simcha (2x)



Schools fully embrace this tradition with daily dress-up themes like silly hat day, pajama day, or mismatched clothes day, making the lead-up to Purim extra exciting.

Try it at home!

- Choose a fun dress-up day each week before Purim: superhero day, favorite color day, or inside-out day.
- Play “Mishenichnas Adar” in your home, car, or classroom to get into the Purim spirit.
- Create a countdown to Purim by making a paper chain or a daily sticker chart.



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V’Nahafochu: The Topsy-Turvy Spirit of Purim

One of Purim’s central themes is ***V’Nahafochu***, meaning “everything turns upside down.” The Purim story is one of dramatic reversals, where danger turned to joy. In Israel, people embrace this theme with fun, silly traditions like wearing clothes backward, letting kids take over as “teachers” for a day, and even serving dessert before dinner!

Try it at home!

- Have an upside-down day: wear clothes inside out, eat breakfast for dinner, or switch family roles for fun.
- Let kids “take charge” for part of the day: maybe they plan a meal or lead a fun activity.
- Read the Purim story backward or mix up the pages of a favorite book for some topsy-turvy fun.

The Sounds of Purim: Music That Fills the Air

Purim in Israel is filled with lively music. Schools, streets, and homes burst with songs that celebrate the holiday’s joy. Some of the most well-known are [Uzi Chutman’s Purim songs](#), which add excitement to the celebrations.

Try it at home!

- Play Israeli Purim songs while getting ready in the morning, baking hamantaschen, or crafting.
- Have a Purim dance party in the living room.
- Sing “***Mishenichnas Adar***” together during car rides or before bedtime.



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Purim in the Streets: The [Adloyada Parade](#)

In Israel, Purim celebrations spill into the streets with the Adloyada Parade, a tradition dating back over a century. Like New Orleans’ Mardi Gras or the Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, the Adloyada features colorful floats, costumes, and music. The name comes from the Aramaic phrase “Ad Delo Yada,” meaning “until one no longer knows,” reflecting the topsy-turvy joy of Purim. Children parade through the streets dressed as Queen Esther, Mordechai, or their favorite pop culture characters, waving to crowds and dancing to music.

Try it at home!

- Organize a mini parade in your home, school, or neighborhood with music and costumes.
- Host a costume fashion show where kids can show off their Purim outfits.
- Make parade signs or flags to wave while marching.

Matanot L'Evyonim: Giving with Purpose

Purim is not just about fun—it's also about justice. One of the key mitzvot is ***Matanot L'Evyonim***, which means “gifts for those in need.” In Israel, children help assemble food baskets, donate clothing, and make sure everyone can celebrate Purim with joy.

Try it at home!

- Let your child choose a small toy, snack, or treat to donate.
- Make cards to give to neighbors, teachers, or friends.
- Put together a giving basket for a food pantry or a friend who could use a little extra joy.



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Mishloach Manot: Sharing the Sweetness of Purim

Another special tradition is ***Mishloach Manot***, giving food baskets to friends and family. In Israel, bakeries overflow with hamantaschen, the traditional triangle-shaped cookies, and families prepare beautiful gift baskets filled with sweets, dried fruit, and treats. Kids especially love decorating and delivering their ***Mishloach Manot***.

Try it at home!

- Make a simple ***Mishloach Manot*** with hamantaschen, fruit, or small candies.
- Decorate the gift bags with stickers, ribbons, or drawings.
- Deliver baskets in costume to make it even more fun!



Image from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Child_in_Purim_costume.jpg)

Purim in Israel is a blend of history, joy, and community. The streets come alive with costumes and music, while acts of kindness remind us of the deeper meaning of the holiday. Remember, no matter where you are, you can bring the energy of Purim in Israel into your home by singing songs, dressing up, giving to others, and celebrating with family and friends. The four mitzvot of Purim—listening to the *Megillah*, giving gifts to friends (***Mishloach Manot***), giving to those in need (***Matanot L'Evyonim***), and enjoying a festive meal (***Seudat Purim***)—further enrich the holiday's spirit of joy and connection.

Chag Purim Sameach—Happy Purim!
- Meir and Alana

[The Robert Russell Early Childhood Department of CAJE | The Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education](#) in Miami presents a new initiative aimed at enriching your children's understanding of Israel through engaging and thought-provoking content from a monthly article penned by two early childhood education experts: [Rabbi Dr. Meir Muller](#) and [Alana Gelnick](#).

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