



Music That Rocks the Preschool Classroom – Tu B'shvat

Lisa Baydush, NewCAJE 11, 2020

All holidays are fun to celebrate with preschoolers, but Tu B'shvat is one of my favorites! Who doesn't love a BIRTHDAY?! This Birthday of the Trees is our Jewish Earth Day, an opportunity to celebrate nature and all of its gifts. Tu B'shvat falls on the 15th day of the month of Sh'vat, and marks the beginning of a new year for trees. We celebrate by planting trees and eating fruit that comes from trees (especially those that grow in Israel).

Tu B'shvat offers many lessons about our responsibility to care for the earth, and there are many experiential ways for preschoolers to engage with that concept. Host a birthday party! Create a Tu B'shvat seder! Plant a garden! Clean up trash on the playground! As a music educator, I encourage you to sing, sing, sing, and 'plant' those ideas into the fertile soil of your students' minds!

Begin by introducing the holiday as the birthday of the trees, and sing a song that helps your students learn to say 'Tu B'shvat.' Sing about the customs of the holiday with movements, gestures and sign language. Now that we are in a virtual teaching mode, that sort of engagement is all the more important. If you can't hear them singing, at least you can SEE them engage with the song. Act out the growing of a tree or pose as different kinds of trees. Ask them to name fruit that grows on trees and create rhythms with fruit shakers. Decorate a laminated tree with laminated fruit! Sing with rhythm sticks, which are made of wood, and wood comes from... TREES! Tell the Jewish folktale, Honi and the Carob Tree, and then sing a song that reinforces the message of caring for future generations. There are many wonderful songs from which to choose! My favorites for this age group are listed below, and more resources can be found on my website – www.LisaBaydush.com.

1. A Tree Gave Me by Debbie Waldman (Manginot II)
2. Adamah V'shamayim by Gabi Meyer ([audio](#))
3. Apple Seed to the tune of The Itsy Bitsy Spider
4. Apples and Bananas adapted by Lisa Baydush
5. Clap Your Hands, Clap Your Hands by Kathy Reid-Naiman, adapted ([audio](#))
6. Clap Your Hands for the Birthday of the Trees by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))
7. Five Green Apples ([audio](#))
8. Gonna Build Myself a Treehouse by Charity Kahn ([audio](#))
9. Grow Little Seed by Lisa Doob
10. Happy Birthday to the Trees adapted by Lisa Baydush to the tune of Shabbat Hop ([audio](#))
11. I'm a Little Apple Seed adapted by Lisa Baydush to the tune of [What Can One Little Person Do](#) by Sally Rogers

12. Israel Blooms All Around to the tune of The Green Grass Grows All Around
13. Let's Plant a Tree in Eretz Yisrael adapted by Judy Caplan Ginsburgh to the tune of Achshav ([audio](#))
14. Lovely Apple Tree by Ellen Allard
15. My Roots Go Down by Sarah Pirtle ([audio](#))
16. One Seed by Laurie Berkner ([audio](#))
17. Plant a Seed by Les Julian ([audio](#))
18. Standing Like a Tree by Betsy Rose ([audio](#))
19. Tapping Stick Song adapted by Lisa Baydush to the tune of Clap, Clap, Clap Your Hands
20. Thank You to the Trees by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))
21. The Earth is Our Mother ([video](#))
22. The Tree Song by Lorraine Lee Hammond ([video](#))
23. Tree Growing Song adapted by Jean Warren to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus ([video](#))
24. Tree Song by Josh Miller ([audio](#))
25. Tu B'shvat by Dean Friedman
26. Tu B'shvat by Josh Pizer ([audio](#))
27. Tu B'shvat Knees and Toes to the tune of Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
28. Tu Tu Tu B'shvat adapted by Lisa Baydush to the tune of Bingo
29. Tu Tu Tu Tu Tu B'shvat by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))
30. Tubie by Mike Stein
31. Two Little Apples to the tune of Five Little Ducks
32. We're Happy It's Tu B'shvat by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Lisa Baydush is a Jewish music educator, song-leader and composer from the Washington DC metropolitan area. An early childhood music specialist and Tot Shabbat service leader at Washington Hebrew Congregation and B'nai Tzedek, Lisa also leads experiential holiday services and programs at a variety of congregations and schools, and regularly teaches early childhood music workshops at NewCAJE. A sunshine girl who delights in transmitting the values, stories and traditions of Judaism through the medium of Jewish music, Lisa has produced four albums of original songs, and written many more! Visit www.LisaBaydush.com to hear audio clips of songs from each of the albums and to find a wealth of resources for Jewish music educators.

