

Sukkot

Concepts: Fall harvest

Symbols/Customs: Sukkah, Lulav, Etrog

Props: sukkah & leaves; laminated fruit & vegetables, tools and lulavs; fruit shakers, Barry Bear and Shubi Dubi (stuffed animal friends for the sukkah).

Tips for Teaching This Unit:

1. We are celebrating a very happy holiday called Sukkot. Talk about what we do on Sukkot: build a sukkah, shake lulav and smell etrog. Sing **Chag Sukkot** with percussion instruments. Age appropriate for all preschoolers.

Chag Sukkot

by Josh Pizer ([audio](#))

Chorus:

Chag Sukkot, chag Sukkot, chag, chag, chag, chag, chag Sukkot!
Chag Sukkot, chag Sukkot, happy, happy, happy holiday! (end... to you!)

Shake the lulav all around,
Left and right and up and down;
Smell the etrog, it's so sweet!
Celebrate with friends all week! (chorus)

2. We wish one another 'Chag Sameach,' happy holiday. Sing **Chag Sameach** with sign language or rhythm sticks. Age appropriate for 3's – 3rd grade.

Chag Sameach ([audio](#))

Chag sameach, chag sameach
Lai— lai lai lai— lai lai lai— (repeat)

Shiru shiru shiru shiru chag sameach
Lai— lai lai lai— lai lai lai— (repeat)

Chag sameach: tap two sticks simultaneously on the ground to the beat; Lai Lai's: tap sticks together Shiru: rub sticks together
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3. Ask if the children have visited a sukkah? Show them the teddy bear sukkah and introduce stuffed animal friends. Invite children who brought stuffed animals with them to class that day to put their animals into the sukkah. It's a mitzvah to invite friends into our sukkah! Sing **Come On In**. This is also the perfect song if you are welcoming classes/guests into the sukkah for a Sukkot program.

Come On In by Ellen Allard,
adapted lyrics by Lisa Baydush ([notation](#)) ([audio](#))

Come on in, come on in, come on in to my sukkah!
Come on in, come on in, come on in, it's Sukkot!

My sukkah's open, it's open to you!
My sukkah's open to friends, old and new.

My sukkah's open, shalom chaverim!
My sukkah's open, b'ruchim haba'im!

My sukkah's open, come in, have a seat!
My sukkah's open, have something to eat!

4. Invite them to build an imaginary sukkah with you. Take out tool bag and introduce one tool with each verse of **Gonna Build Myself a Sukkah**. This has been very successful with all preschoolers. It's especially fun with rhythm sticks!

Gonna Build Myself a Sukkah

by Charity Kahn ([audio](#))

I've got an ax, gonna chop chop chop! (3x)
Gonna build myself a sukkah!

Saw, cut cut cut...

Hammer, tap tap tap...

Ladder, climb climb climb... Gonna decorate my sukkah!

Chop: tap sticks; Saw: rub sticks; Hammer: one stick as the nail, the other taps on it like a hammer; Ladder: use sticks as the rungs of the ladder
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5. **Build it Up** is always a hit as well with 4's-3rd graders. For this song, everyone stands in a circle; do body percussion by patting legs just above the knees and gradually moving up the body, getting progressively louder until clapping hands high over-head. Sing the verse, then start back at the knees and build it up again, sing the verse again, then end with the chorus one last time.

Build it Up

by Ellen Allard ([audio](#))

Build it up, build—it—up!
Build it up, build—it—up! (repeat)

Gonna build a sukkah build it up so high,
See the stars— up in the sky.
Shake the lulav, shake it here and there,
Shake it to show God is everywhere!

6. Now it's time to decorate the sukkah. Pass a basket or bag of laminated fruit/vegetables so each child can select one. Sing **Our Sukkah** as the children hang the fruit on the sukkah. Surprisingly, Kindergarten students enjoyed decorating the sukkah as much as the 2's! A quick way is to get through Our Sukkah is to call the children up in groups based on type of fruit they picked rather than singing each name ("Now we hang some apples...").

Our Sukkah

by Carol Boyd Leon

Now we decorate our lovely sukkah;
Now we decorate it for Sukkot! (repeat)

Lisa hangs an orange, hangs an orange,
Lisa hangs an orange on our sukkah for Sukkot!

Now we hang some apples, hang some apples,
Now we hang some apples on our sukkah for Sukkot!

Now we have a very lovely sukkah!
Now we have a lovely sukkah for Sukkot! (repeat)

7. Show the children the laminated lulav and a lemon fruit shaker (etrog) and explain tradition of shaking them in all directions to show that God is all around. Give a lulav and fruit shaker to each child. Practice shaking in all directions. Sing **I Go to the Sukkah** (3's-4's) or **This is My Lulav** (2's). I Go to the Sukkah has a slow part and a fast part. We sway to the slow part, then we shake REALLY fast in all directions on the second part. They think it is hilarious to suddenly start shaking their shakers really fast and then to stop abruptly.

I Go to the Sukkah

by Lisa Doob ([audio](#))

I go to the sukkah with things in my hands,
I go to the sukkah outside where it stands,
I go the sukkah see the sky above,
I go to the sukkah and wave the lulav!

And I wave it... *(sing fast!)*
to the front and to the front and
to the right and to the right and
to the back and to the back and
to the left and to the left and
to the sky and to the sky and
to the ground and to the ground and
up and down and all around and stop!

This is My Lulav

TTTO Johnny Works with One Hammer,
adaptation and chorus by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

This is my lulav, lulav, lulav,
This is my lulav for Sukkot! (repeat)

Chorus:

Shake it up (Shake it up)
Shake it down (Shake it down)
Shake it all around (all around!) (repeat)

This is my etrog, etrog, etrog... (chorus)

This is my sukkah, sukkah, sukkah... (chorus)

8. Then for more shaking fun, sing **The Lulav Shake** or **I'm a Lulav**, singing the chorus twice through at the beginning so that they can sing along while shaking their lulavs and etrogs... and themselves!

The Lulav Shake

by Steve Dropkin ([audio](#))

Sukkot is a harvest holiday,
The celebration lasts for seven days;
We build our sukkah, then we decorate,
A special booth in which we congregate

Chorus:

Do the lulav shake (shake, shake, shake)! (3x)
Do the lulav shake!

I'm a Lulav

by Jill Moskowitz

Shake me up and shake me down
Shake me shake me all around
Shake me here and shake me there
'Cause God is everywhere

Chorus:

I'm a lu— lu lu lu lu lav,
I'm a lu lu lu lu lav! (repeat)

9. Now it's time to have a **Party in the Sukkah!** Since we've already built and decorated the sukkah AND waved the lulav, skip those verses and start with 'Gonna party in the sukkah...', then invite friends to the sukkah, eat in the sukkah, sleep out in the sukkah... when they are all lying on the floor, snoring, suddenly go back to the 'dance' chorus – the children scramble to their feet in excitement and start dancing again. Very cute!

Party in the Sukkah

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Gonna party in the sukkah (3x)
Gonna party in the sukkah all week long!

Chorus:

Dance, dance, dance, dance 'n dance (3x)...

Invite friends to the sukkah...
Eat out in the sukkah...
Sleep out in the sukkah... yawn/snore...

10. More fun songs to consider are: **In My Sukkah** (with hand motions), **Come On Into My Sukkah** and **In My Sukkah**.

In My Sukkah

by Dean Friedman ([audio](#))

Built a little sukkah (echo) out in the back (echo)
Looks like a house (echo) and a little like a shack (echo)
It's not too big (echo) and it's not too high (echo)
When you sit inside (echo) you can see the sky (echo)

Shake, shake, shake the lulav,
Smell the etrog, so sweet!
Come and have a looka in my sukkah,
And help yourself to something to eat!
In my sukkah, in my su—kkah, in my su—u-u-u-kkah!

Come On Into My Sukkah

by Ellen Allard ([notation](#)) ([audio](#))

Come on into my Sukkah, come on into my Sukkah,
Pull up a chair and sit right down, come on into my Sukkah!

Shake the lulav (echo),
Smell the etrog (echo),
Skach on the roof (echo),
Chag Sameach (echo),
Oh oh oh oh... (chorus)

In My Sukkah

by Ellen Allard ([notation](#))

Shake the lulav in my sukkah, shake the lulav in my sukkah!
Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake,
Shake the lulav in my sukkah!

In my sukkah, in my sukkah
In my sukkah, in my su-u-kkah
In my sukkah, in my sukkah on Sukkot!

Smell the etrog...
Hang the fruit...
Say the blessings...

11. Show EinPrat Fountainheads video, **Livin' in a Booth**, to 4's and Kindergarten students.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXx5Wp3GcSE

12. Please note my Preschool Parodies song-sheet that make it easy for non-music teachers to sing in the classroom.

