



Venture into Yom Ha'atzmaut Israel Independence Day



Israel Independence Day Play Dough* Prompts

Many Jews all over the world feel a deep connection to the State of Israel as a home for Jewish people and a place of historical significance in Jewish history. Many stories of the Torah take place in the land and many Jews turn their bodies to face the direction of Jerusalem when it is time to pray. As a modern country founded in 1948, Israel is home to many cultures and is an important holy place for many religions, including Muslims and Christians. Through play, children can gently explore some of the complexities around Israel, such as Israel's diverse cultures and landscapes. Play is an important part of learning and adults have a critical role during play.



Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, a psychologist at Temple University, said, "The best toys are 90% the kid, 10% the toy". Sensory play is 90% kid!

What is your role during sensory play?

- Observe + listen to what the children are saying
- Use PRIDE play skills:
- Praise their play
- Repeat what they say (only if it's appropriate - IGNORE if it is not appropriate)
- Imitate how they play (do what they do)
- Describe what you see them do with objective words like: I see you are rolling the dough.
- Enthusiastically engage in the play!

Expand the play by adding an, "I wonder if..." statement.

- If you could visit any place in Israel, what would you want to see and why?
- What do you think it's like to live in Israel? What are some things you might do there?
- If you could bring something special back from Israel, what would it be?
- How do you think the land of Israel looks and feels? What are some things you might see or hear there?"
- "If you could travel to Israel, what would you want to take with you to help you understand the culture?"

When the play is finished, reflecting is an important step to construct meaning and compound learning. Ask a question like this when you are finished playing:

- What do you think makes Israel a special place?
- What are some things you would like to see or learn about Israel when you get older?

*Download a recipe for homemade play dough [here!](#)