



LITTLE COMPASS

ROSH HASHANA BIRTHDAY PARTY

READY-TO-USE AT-HOME ACTIVITY GUIDE
FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

www.little-compass.com



WELCOME!!

In the Rosh Hashana prayers, we say “Hayom Harat Olam” which can be simply translated as “today is the birthday of the world!” Rosh Hashana traditionally commemorates the “birthday” or creation of all humankind. The idea of celebrating a birthday is certainly one that is familiar and beloved to small children so let's create the best birthday party in honor of Rosh Hashana with twists on all the usual birthday classics!



HAVE A ROSH HASHANA BIRTHDAY PARTY!



Little COMPASS
PLAY with Purpose

BIRTHDAY CLASSICS

No birthday party is complete without cake, decorations, and gifts-giving!



BIRTHDAY CAKE

There are many traditional themes that can be incorporated into your Rosh Hashana birthday cake. Use an apple or honey cake recipe to represent the sweetness of the new year. Just like we traditionally eat round challah on Rosh Hashana, a round cake symbolizes the continuing cycle of the year and of our lives. If you are really ambitious, you can design a birthday cake like [everydayjewishmom](http://everydayjewishmom.com). Before you blow out the candles, don't forget to share your wishes and hopes for the new year.



SHOFAR PARTY BLOWERS

Blowing and hearing the shofar is one of the most important aspects of Rosh Hashana. The shofar sounds are typically understood to be a "wake up call" or an alarm clock to all of us that a new year is beginning and to remind us to use this year in the best way possible. So, get out your birthday party blowers and convert them into shofars, using this great tutorial by alphamom: <https://alphamom.com/family-fun/holidays/make-a-shofar-to-celebrate-the-jewish-new-year/>



GREETING CARDS

Birthdays are a time of card and gift-giving. It is also traditional to wish family and friends a Happy Rosh Hashana by giving gifts or cards. Use apples to make adorable apple cards, gifts, or decorations for family and friends:

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/september-2019/make-your-own-rosh-hashanah-cards>



"SHEHECHIYANU" GOODY BAGS

It is traditional to eat a "new fruit" on Rosh Hashana - one that you have not eaten in the past year so that you can say the special blessing of "shehechiyanu". This is a fun opportunity to encourage kids to try new and exotic things like passionfruit, lychee, dragonfruit or starfruit. Create together a list of "new things" that your child did or tried this past year and a list of "new things" that your child wants to try this upcoming year.

PARTY GAMES

Give classic birthday party games a Rosh Hashana twist!



PIN THE TAIL ON THE FISH

A traditional blessing on Rosh Hashana is that we should be "like the head and not the tail." To symbolize this blessing, some people serve an actual head of a fish or lamb. A vegetarian twist could be a head of lettuce or cabbage. And a sweet kid option could be gummy fish! **Instead of the birthday classic "pin the tail on the donkey," play this silly version instead! Use this [template](#) for inspiration.**



GUESS THE POMEGRANATE SEEDS

Pomegranates are connected to Rosh Hashana because they are one of the seven species of the Land of Israel that are at their prime during this time of year. They are also used to symbolize our hope that the year will be full of "mitzvot" or good deeds like the multitude of seeds in the pomegranate (according to tradition, exactly 613 like the number of mitzvot listed in the Torah!). **Open a pomegranate and have kids guess how many seeds they think are inside. Then count the number of seeds together and compare their guess to the real amount!**



HIDDEN MYSTERIES

Lay several items in a line on the floor (such as shofar, a machzor, an apple, a honey jar, a shanah tova card, etc). Ask kids to take a close look and then to close their eyes. Remove one or more objects. When they open their eyes, let them guess what's missing. **You could also make this into a scavenger hunt around the house to get everyone active!**

MUSICAL CHAIRS

Everyone loves musical chairs! Just have one less chair than the number of participants. **Dance around the chairs to the music and when the music stops, find a seat!** In the Rosh Hashana spirit, use this fun song from the Fountainheads:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlcxEDy-lr0>

If you need a non-digital option, just sing these cute Rosh Hashana lyrics put to classic preschool tunes:

<https://perpetualpreschool.com/rosh-hashana-songs/>

