



OLD MACNOAH HAD AN ARC

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*Noah has built an ark and herded all the animals on board.
Now what is he to do with these hungry, smelly, slip-sliding crea-
tures? Ee-i-Ee-i-o!*

The story of Noah and the Flood comprises one of the first major accounts of the Bible and comes chronologically after the creation of the world, the Garden of Eden, and Cain and Abel. The story of Noah precedes that of Abraham and the formation of the Jewish people. It is a universal story, part of our shared history and included in many religions. Most cultures have a similar flood story in which a hero is directed by God (or another divine being) to build a boat and thereby escape the destruction of the world by water.

With its focus on animals, an honorable man, God's protection, and a positive outcome, the story of Noah is one of the most often-told to young children. For those who feel that the story of the Flood can be problematic for youngsters, *Old MacNoah Had an Ark* offers a cheerful introduction to the story without talking about God punishing wickedness or waters destroying the world.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

Young children are often fascinated by the great variety of animal life that abounds in nature. A marvelous way for children to learn about diversity in all creation is to

explore animal types outside their sphere of knowledge. Share books, articles, Internet sites, etc. with your children to investigate unusual creatures—from those with curious-sounding names, such as aardvarks and orangutans, to those with unique features such as the male seahorse that gives birth, flightless birds, or glow-in-the-dark fish. The world becomes increasingly magnificent as we are introduced to the extravagances of nature. It is a small and natural progression to the realization that humans, too, share this wild and glorious array. Pj

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