

Ligdol V'Lifroach – Child and Family Services - a non-profit organization

Ligdol V'Lifroach is dedicated to helping children of all socio-economic backgrounds in the greater Bet Shemesh area with developmental challenges reach their potential through the provision of quality therapeutic intervention and educational enrichment services in a timely manner.

April 2009
Issue No. 5

Upcoming events

May – 3, 10, 17 and 24 -
"The Learning Disabled
Child: At Home, At School
and on the Street" a series of
workshops co-hosted with
"Hakshiva" - sponsored by
Partnership 2000



June - Registration for Sikun
L'Sikui program - contact
Vardit Spiegelman
(vardit@mercazrakefet.org)
if your child fits the criteria.



July – August
Summer Language
Enrichment programs –
preparation for kita aleph



1. Message from our Director

Dear Friends

Pesach is a time of freedom - but how free does a child feel when they cannot keep up in class, feel threatened in different situations, or perhaps have speech issues that effect them in the classroom, playground, and at home.

As we prepare to hear the questions of the four "sons" at the seder table, the staff of LVL can relate from a different perspective. The wise, simple, wicked and silent sons ask questions according to their individual abilities. At Ligdol v'Lifroach we know there are many more than four "sons". Each child that comes to us for therapy has their own "question" and our therapists work with them and their families to provide answers and solutions. We continue to treat approximately 400 children a month and reach 1200 families a year through Mercaz Rakefet and our other programs in the community.

The current economic times translates to some businesses being less in demand. In fact, our workload increases with children sometimes not coming for therapy until their issues have reached crisis point or a child is emotionally suffering from the situation around them.

We continue to work tirelessly to provide for the children who need our assistance but are unable to pay for therapy. I would like to thank those of you who have already donated to Ligdol v'Lifroach this year and ask others to please consider us when giving tzedakah. The assistance we give nourishes a child and their family in a vital way.

Wishing you a פסח כשר ושמח

Ziva Schapiro
Director

Give a child in need the chance to succeed....



Sponsor a project



Sponsor a child in therapy



Encourage your child to donate to LVL in honor of their bar/batmitzvah.



Volunteer in our Toy Library



2. Ligdol v'Lifroach Program update

- **From Risk to Opportunity** – an early childhood intervention program aimed at the inclusion of young children (aged 0-3) with special needs within a regular day care center. Children with varying developmental delays benefit from inclusion with typically developing peers and are integrated into the various classes of a day care center in Ramat Beit Shemesh. This program is funded by Ashalim, a division of the Joint Distribution Committee, together with the health and social welfare ministries. We are recruiting children for next year's program.
- **Toy Library and Developmental Playroom** – This project is open to children in therapy at Mercaz Rakefet. Memberships cost 80 shekels a year and children can benefit from a variety of developmental toys and games to help them progress between therapy sessions. We plan to open this project to the wider community towards the end of 2009.
- **Community education workshops** to parents and teachers on dealing with violence in elementary school children with learning differences or ADHD. This program is funded by Partnership 2000 - Jewish Agency and is a series of 3 – 4 sessions to teach strategies to adults with children in their care.
- **Remedial teaching program** to assist weaker students with their studies without having to attend our center or during after-school hours. We schedule times within their school day on their campus to allow for minimal disruption and maximum coordination with their teachers and counselors.
- **Subsidized evaluations to youth at risk** through the local Welfare Department to evaluate and report on ways of assisting students at school ensuring they remain in the formal education system and complete their schooling.
- **Success Begins at Home** - together with the Benjamin Children's library we introduce literacy and language development skills to parents of children (0-3) from disadvantaged populations. Our program provides monthly sessions on various child development issues and the importance of playing with suitable toys and games at a young age.

3. Mazal tov to our Board members

- Chuck and Shirah Davidson on the engagement of their daughter, Adina.
- Yechiel and Cheryl Corn on the engagement of their daughter, Adina.
- Dr Jay and Miriam Sultan on the engagement of their daughter, Sarah.
- Rivki and Aytan Himmelstein on the batmitzvah of their daughter, Shira.

4. How can you help us....

Toy Library

We receive donations of used toys and games throughout the year and at Pesach through our toy drive but there are still many items we need to purchase to make our Toy library functional and accessible to all children. We need **furniture and toys suitable for special needs children** which are not those generally donated. Please be in contact if you would like to help us with these expenses or if you know of other sources (local/overseas family/friends) who would find this cause close to their heart.

Books for our library

Do you order books on line, maybe you could add a couple of books to your list and donate them to the Ligidol V'Lifroach Parenting Library. Our library is an important resource specifically on child development issues. We have over 100 books in English and Hebrew but we would like to add many more. Contact us for our wish list of books.

Anyone traveling from Los Angeles?

The children of the Conejo Jewish Day School in Agoura Hills, Los Angeles have new toys to donate to our toy library but we need to get them here. If you are traveling to LA or have family coming who would like to help us please be in contact to arrange this.

Fundraising Committee

Are you looking for a meaningful way to use your time while helping children from your own community? Are you creative and enthusiastic? Enjoy working on a project? We need volunteers to organize events throughout the year to raise money for our Therapy Assistance Fund. Contact Emma Link – emma@mercazrakefet.org or 992-0947 to volunteer.

To contribute to LVL – a tax deductible organization (Tax ID no. 580436863) send checks made out to “Ligidol V'Lifroach”, Sderot Tzeelim 6, Ramat Bet Shemesh or by credit card by calling our Center on 02-9920947 to give your details.

4. How to contact us

Ligidol V'Lifroach – Child and Family Services
Mercaz Rakefet Child Development Center
Sderot Tzeelim 6, Ramat Bet Shemesh
Phone: 02-9920947

Email: info@mercazrakefet.org or visit us online at: www.mercazrakefet.org