

# 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.

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## Upcoming events

**Shana Tova** to all our families – wishing you all a year of health and success.



**October/November- Parenting workshop - Empowering Adults in coping with learning difficulties in elementary school children – RBS**



**October Launch of our new website – [www.mercazrakefet.org](http://www.mercazrakefet.org)**



**December- Chanukah Fundraising Appeal –**



## 1. Ligdol V'Lifroach – Update

**We are pleased to announce two new programs:**

**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 in a local day care center in Beit Shemesh.

These children are assisted by aides, provided by the local social welfare department and are included in the regular programming of the center. They receive para-medical therapies on site by therapists of Mercaz Rakefet. In addition, the staff of the day care center receives regular training on child development issues throughout the year presented by our therapists. This program is funded by Ashalim, a division of the Joint Distribution Committee, together with the health ministry and the social welfare ministry.

### **Success Begins at Home – a language and literacy development program**

Ligdol v'Lifroach is partnering with the Benjamin Children's Library and Learning Center in a new program to develop language and literacy skills for parents and children (aged 6mths - 3).

Our target population is primarily new immigrants from Ethiopia, the former USSR, English speaking countries as well as veteran Israelis, many with larger than average families. A percentage of the children come from households where parents are unable to provide the basics in their mother tongue and certainly not in a new language.

The program includes the following components:

- Story hour and creative play and craft activities at the Benjamin Children's Library.
- Ongoing guidance - how and where to read to children, how to involve children in the story to make it more exciting.
- Monthly parent sessions by the staff of Mercaz Rakefet. - information on different developmental issues. Parents will learn how to make educational toys and games from accessible household or recycled objects.

Participants will benefit from subscriptions to both the Benjamin Children's Library and Mercaz Rakefet's Toy Library to reinforce the importance of books and toys in developing children's language and literacy skills. The program is funded by the Jewish Federation of New York.

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



**Sponsor a project**



**Sponsor a child in therapy**



**Encourage your child to donate a percentage of their bar/batmitzvah gifts to LVL.**



**Volunteer in our Toy Library**



### **Toy Library and Developmental Playroom**

We are busy getting our toy library ready for children and parents to use and plan to open the toy library to our Mercaz Rakefet families after Sukkot.

The toy library is located adjacent to Mercaz Rakefet and will have set opening hours for your convenience. It will be used as an adjunct to your children's therapy. Our therapists will be able to recommend specific toys to help develop skills between appointments. Memberships will be available after the chagim.

*Thank you to the Helen Bader Foundation for the generous grant to enable us to open this facility. Thank you also to all the girls from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Ahavat Yisrael Elementary School for helping our volunteer, Hedva Mor, in checking and cataloging the toys.*

### **Empowering Adults in coping with learning disabilities in elementary school children**

Register your interest for our next parenting workshop in this series to be held in Ramat Beit Shemesh during October/November.

### **New website**

Come and surf with us at [www.mercazrakefet.org](http://www.mercazrakefet.org). We have built a brand new website for your use. It has all the information on therapies, evaluations, our programs and staff. It's made for you so please be sure to use it. If you have any feedback on information you'd like to see on the site please contact Emma Link – [emma@mercazrakefet.org](mailto:emma@mercazrakefet.org).

**Money Box project** – drop into the Center to pick up a colorful money box to collect your small change and help raise money for LVL. "Children giving to children" is a wonderful concept for your kids to feel they are helping other kids receive the assistance they so need. Why not take one to your children's gan and ask the gannenet to help us too.

*Thank you to Gan Nitzanim and Gan Golan for participating in this project last year.*

### **Overseas Visitors –**

We welcomed Rabbi Eli Broner from Agur Hills, California. Rabbi Broner is the vice principal of the Conejo Jewish Day School, Los Angeles. We hope to build a relationship with the children of his school to raise money for our projects.

Ms Jackie Persoff, from the Jewish Child's Day Foundation in the UK, visited us in July following our request for funding our Therapy Assistance Program.

We would like to make contacts in overseas communities and build relationships to help in our fundraising activities. If you have visiting family please consider a short visit to Mercaz Rakefet to explain the activities and where their overseas communities or individuals can help.

Contact [emma@mercazrakefet.org](mailto:emma@mercazrakefet.org) to discuss this further.

## 2. Profile : Remedial Teaching Program

Different children learn differently. The school environment cannot possibly accommodate every type of child, and yet, your child's self-esteem can suffer if his or her learning needs are not met in a "mainstream" setting.

At Mercaz Rakefet, we have an innovative remedial teaching program. This program is directed by our special educator, Talya Cohen who has broad experience in providing special education services in the school system in Beit Shemesh.

While traditional remedial tutoring is designed to provide assistance in addition to what is available to the child at his school, the Mercaz Rakefet Remedial Teaching Program operates in full coordination with the child's teachers and school. Each child undergoes an educational evaluation at the start of the program to develop specific educational goals. Children in the program participate in scheduled teaching sessions in Mercaz Rakefet or in the child's school (if we run a program there) and our staff are in constant contact with teachers and counsellors to evaluate progress and provide feedback.

Our goal is to help children develop effective and independent learning skills which they can take with them to school, and out into the world. In turn, your child will feel confident that s/he can absorb and integrate information more easily, problem solve with greater success, and work more efficiently. The benefits of this type of self-assurance are invaluable and essential for continued healthy development.

### **Which children need remedial teaching:**

Children with learning disabilities, kids who fall behind in school due to organizational or emotional problems, recent olim, children with language disorders, and kids seeking to further improve their learning skills for whatever reason are all candidates for our remedial teaching program.

### **Services include:**

- Educational Evaluations
- Remedial teaching for reading and writing.  
Reading comprehension strategies, learning strategies and organizational skills.
- Preparation for tests  
Preparation of material learned in class.  
Arithmetic for elementary school, mathematics for junior high.
- First grade readiness (reading, writing and arithmetic)

This program currently runs in-house for girls and boys at the Ahavat Yisrael School.

**For more information on Remedial Teaching at Mercaz Rakefet contact Talya Cohen - [talya@mercazrakefet.org](mailto:talya@mercazrakefet.org) or call 02-9920947.**

## 3. How to give..

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

To sponsor a project or volunteer please contact Emma Link, Development Coordinator–  
[Emma@mercazrakefet.co.il](mailto:Emma@mercazrakefet.co.il)

## 4. How to contact us

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