



*MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT*

Program: From “Babysitters” to Day Cares Year: 2019

Name of the Program: From “Babysitters” to Day Cares Year of activity: 2019

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Number of active participants in the program: 950 (In six months)

Estimated number of impacted participants: 2,600 (In six months)

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

In our mutual project, we work to improve the quality of life for the children of the community by:

1. Promoting the transition from “babysitters” to the government-municipal day cares.
2. Optimal preparation of the caregivers and parents towards the transition.
3. Promoting registration for municipal kindergartens, for a beneficial transition from the “babysitters”.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

1. Promoting the transition from “babysitters” to the government-municipal day cares.

Mesila is a partner in steering the innovative model of the government-municipal day cares, funded by the government and located in buildings rented by the municipality. The day cares are administered by Israeli non-profits and the classes are managed and operated by care givers from the community.

We are devastated to report that in February, a four-month old died due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, during his first days at the 'LaSova' governmental–municipal day-care.

The staff acted responsibly: immediately reacting to the incident by performing CPR and calling an ambulance. The family of the infant is of Congolese origin. Mesila’s staff immediately started supporting the day care staff and the infant's family. This was a distressing and traumatic experience for all involved and we hope that we managed to help during these difficult times.

Unfortunately, the day-care centre at Hagra 3 has still not opened. The day-care center will provide a solution for 170 infants and toddlers. After significant disagreements with The Society for the Advancement of Education, about the operation of the day care who were meant to operate Hagra, it was decided that we will be going our separate ways. They had no experience in the field of early childhood and the community of asylum seekers, which made the work with them and their orientation very intensive.

The operation will hopefully go to 'LaSova', the non-profit we work with at the daycare at Nahalat Binyamin and has deep familiarity with the community and early childhood. We will do everything in our power so that the day care will open at the beginning of the upcoming school year.

In tandem, we are working to locate buildings for new day cares. Locating new buildings is a challenging process – as there are hardly any suitable buildings that fulfill the strict requirements for daycares in South Tel-Aviv. We truly hope to find at least one suitable building by the end of the year.

We built a group in collaboration with NATAL for the Israeli day care staffs, with two main goals:

- 1) To provide tools for working with children and parents coping with ongoing trauma and to provide tools for working with and guarding against secondary traumatization.
- 2) To create a peer group from the different non-profits that can continue to meet and provide support and strength to one another.

We believe that collaborative work and sharing will help professionalize the staff and the service given at the day cares to the community's families.

2. Optimal preparation of the caregivers and parents for the transition from “babysitters” to government day cares:

- We posted relevant information and informational videos on Mesila's [Facebook page](#).
- The social workers explain the benefits to their parent clients and assist with the transition.
- We conducted weekly intensive on-the-job pedagogical training with care givers and staff in 25 babysitters on a variety of topics: early childhood development, language interactions and their importance, appropriate early childhood nutrition, educational schedules and routines, movement, play and more.
- We improved the physical and safety conditions including: educational equipment and table games, chairs, quality mattresses for the children's afternoon naps and more.
- We integrated approximately 50 volunteers from a variety of professional disciplines at the babysitters – speech therapists, former kindergarten teachers, yoga instructors and more.
- 11 psychology students from the Tel-Aviv-Jaffa Academic College and two occupational therapy students who worked with the children at the babysitters as part of their training program, treated approximately 30 toddlers and young children with emotional problems and developmental delays.
- We conducted group guidance, workshops, and courses on a number of subjects (taking care of children with post-trauma, CPR and more).
- We held two training courses for Eritrean and West African caregivers about working with children in early childhood on issues relating to early childhood: play, nutrition, schedules and routines, communication and language, empathic work with parents, CPR, and first aid.
- We held a therapeutic group for women, clients of Mesila, who are after birth. The goal of the group was to reduce symptoms of post-partum depression and to encourage good and healthy communication with the newborn.
- We held an intimate learning group for senior Eritrean care givers on the subject of trauma, recognizing the signs and behavior of children who have undergone trauma, and methods for working with these children.

3. Promoting registration for the municipal kindergartens, for a smooth, beneficial transition for three-year old children from the “babysitters” to municipal educational settings:

We made the process more efficient this year by obtaining all the placements in advance and almost every one of Mesila’s units helped in the process:

- Posted an informative video on Facebook and sent it to activists and clients on WhatsApp.
- Prepared and distributed flyers to the parents in Tigrinya with detailed information about registration.
- Significantly expanded and lengthened Mesila’s reception hours.
- Held informative meetings with parents.
- Held orientation and training sessions for kindergarten teachers, elementary school teachers and municipal coordinators on working with the asylum seeker community.
- We conducted a seminar for 150 municipal kindergarten teachers who work with the community’s children on trauma and resilience among families and children in the community of asylum seekers and the role of the kindergarten teachers. The seminar took place at the initiative of Mesila’s Early Childhood Unit in collaboration with the Tel-Aviv Municipality, the Ministry of Education, the Tel-Aviv Educational Psychological Service, and the Haruv Institute.

In the years of our partnership, we have achieved together substantial progress and impact on the community. For that we are grateful and hopeful to continue this fruitful partnership in the future.

Best Regards,

Tze’ela

Please join the Evaluation Report - attached

Financial Report - attached

A list of the participants to the program (**as PDF documents**) – Not applicable due to confidentiality.

Please join 5 photos – as **JPG files** – attached

Other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors:

[Watch a video we made for the community explaining Mesila's assistance to children in early childhood](#)