

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program
Year 2025

Name of the Program: Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program

Year of activity: 2025

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Number of active participants in the program: 40

Estimated number of impacted participants: Based on our experience and participant responses, the program's reach extends well beyond the 40 active participants. When children engage in meaningful educational experiences, they naturally become advocates within their households, sharing discoveries and enthusiasm with family members. We estimate that approximately 80 additional individuals, primarily family members, experienced positive indirect impact.

The participants' willingness to recommend the program to friends creates a ripple effect throughout the community. Their genuine passion for scientific learning encourages peers to explore these fields. While we cannot precisely measure this secondary influence, it remains a vital component of the program's overall impact on bridging educational gaps in underserved populations.

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines): The 2025 Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program at Technoda concluded successfully in August, offering children from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience life as “scientists for a day” through hands-on scientific-technological activities. Building on this success, we intend to continue the program in 2026. The attached evaluation report provides detailed outcomes and impact.

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

In 2025, with support from the Matanel Foundation, Technoda provided an engaging summer program for 40 children from disadvantaged families. Operating throughout July and August, these six weeks offered participants weekly opportunities to explore various fields, including medicine, chemistry, physics, astronomy, space exploration, and aviation. Understanding the critical need for structured supervision during

summer months, the program created a secure educational environment where children could develop through meaningful learning experiences.

Our most significant achievement this year was a 90% recommendation rate, with participants stating they would encourage their friends to join the program. This underscores the meaningful impact of the program on its participants.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

At the start of the program, we established three key goals for the project:

1. Providing children from low socioeconomic background with a safe environment during summer break, while they are not under the supervision of any formal system and their parents are at work.
2. Exposing the children in the program to science and technology.
3. Bridging social and economic gaps in the Israeli society by providing a supportive educational framework for children from weaker populations, with an emphasis on science and technology.

We conducted the evaluation through questionnaires that participants completed at both the beginning and conclusion of the program. The findings demonstrate that we successfully achieved our goals across both social and academic dimensions.

Academically, the program effectively exposed children to scientific and technological concepts through hands-on learning. By the program's end, 79% of participants found the topics 'interesting to a great extent,' indicating that Technoda's hands-on approach successfully sparked curiosity and sustained engagement among children from underserved backgrounds.

The program's social impact was equally strong, creating an environment where learning became both accessible and enjoyable. With 72% of participants reporting that they enjoyed the activities, the evaluation shows that complex scientific subjects became approachable, helping children build confidence, curiosity, and positive attitudes toward education, which are essential elements for bridging educational gaps.

Most significantly, the program fulfilled its crucial role of providing safe, supervised care during summer months. The fact that 72% expressed desire to return the following year demonstrates that the children felt genuinely supported and engaged, validating the program's success in creating a safe environment when formal educational systems are unavailable.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

This year's feedback was highly positive. It underscored the critical need to provide children from underserved communities in the social periphery with a safe and enriching environment during the summer break. We intend to continue the program next year. Our guidelines for the coming year are as follows:

1. **Increase engagement with scientific topics:** We intend to raise the number of participants who report finding the subjects "interesting to a great extent" by introducing new areas such as computers, cyber, and escape rooms.
2. **Enhance enjoyment of activities:** To increase the percentage of children stating they enjoyed the activities at Technoda, we intend to expand the program's social components. The addition of the escape room activity will also support this goal by combining learning with fun, teamwork, and problem solving.
3. **Encourage continued participation:** To boost the number of participants expressing a desire to return the following year, we intend to create an end-of-year teaser displaying the new topics planned for next summer.
4. **Expand outreach to underserved populations:** We also intend to reach new groups from even more disadvantaged backgrounds, such as older siblings of children already enrolled in our social programs and known to the welfare system.

At the following link, you can watch a 5-minute film showcasing Technoda:

<https://youtu.be/vI8PXegj5o4>