



The Orange Class Sports Therapy Program 2013-14

Supported by the Jordana Lokash Foundation

A New Year, A New Beginning

Getting to know the Orange Class at Beit Issie Shapiro

The Orange Class has returned to Beit Issie Shapiro for a new and exciting school year. There are seven children in the class: Nir and Itamar stayed on from last year, and joining them are some new faces – Neta, Adi A, Adi S, Shoham and Shira. All are between the ages of 7 and 9, and have moderate to severe developmental disabilities. While each child has his or her own complicated condition, for all of them their developmental disabilities manifest in significant intellectual disabilities and varying levels of motor dysfunction.

Beit Issie Shapiro provides these and other children with disabilities a uniquely nurturing and caring environment, where each child receives an intensive special education and treatments program that is carefully tailored to his/her needs. We maintain a high ratio of caregivers and therapists to children so that each child receives all the attention, care and love they need.

One of the most effective treatments that Beit Issie Shapiro provides is sport therapy, which helps the children to significantly improve their motor abilities, levels of independence and social skills. Importantly, it is also a great outlet for just having fun. Managed by a physical education teacher and sports specialists, sessions include work with ropes, bars, tumbling mats, balls, and other similar equipment that can be used or adapted to each child's needs.

Changing Children's Lives in the Orange Class Through Sports Therapy

As in the past, **thanks to the Jordana Lokash Foundation**, every child of the Orange Class receives both individual sport therapy treatments three times a week and group sport sessions twice a week. Since children with intellectual disabilities often tend to have poor fitness and resulting in short- and long-term ill-health, the individual sessions emphasize physical activity and fitness in accordance with the child's specific physical fitness goals (including using the adapted treadmill at the Sport Center's gym). In group sessions, the adapted physical activity program is a model that fosters social interaction through sports.



Here, Neta is working on her posture, mobility and strength through a supervised ball game, tailored to her needs. See how it also helps her focus and coordination skills!

On Neta's behalf & on behalf of all her friends in the Orange Class, thank you so much for your kind & caring support.

Special Consultant to the UN Economic and Social Council

