

NEGBA NEWS

Remedial Instruction Pilot Project Inaugurated with Nitzan Organization, Aims to Assist Negba's Most Learning Disabled Kids

Negba's after-school programs strive to help underprivileged children develop their educational capacities – and their social, emotional, and cultural capacities as well- to the same levels as in children born into families with greater opportunities. Sadly, what we have discovered is that some Negba children lack the most basic skills in reading, writing, and math, which they should have acquired in first grade. Whether due to home circumstances or to cognitive learning disabilities, these kids can't progress without fundamental building blocks. They then develop extremely low self-esteem and shamefully conceal their deficiencies.



Negba's Remedial Instruction Pilot Project aims to address this problem. With a new collaborative partner, Nitzan- the Israeli Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Negba now offers individualized instruction for select children ages 7-9 and teens ages 13-14 at Negba's after-school Houses and clubs. And the project is already making an impact.

"I practice math equations that are hard for me, said Tehila, a 5th grader. "It definitely helps me. I understand things in school more quickly now." Orly, in 6th grade, is not yet enrolled in the program, but participated on a few occasions when a child was absent. And she sorely wants to join: "Math is very hard for me, and the instructor helped me learn multiplication and fractions with fun games. If I could be in the project, it would help me so much."

Evening Dance Show Starring Negba's Talent

An enchanting dance performance inspired by Peter Pan, The Lion King, and other children's classics was held recently at Negba. Each after-school Home took to the stage to perform a self- choreographed hip-hop dance to the music of a favorite Disney movie, with thematic costume to match. The colorful evening allowed Negba's children to foster their self-confidence and abilities while having fun as characters from 101 Dalmatians, Mulan, Robin Hood and other childhood friends.



"It was a great experience and a lot of fun," said Atara, one of the stars in a video accompanying the Talent Show. We had to be serious and have a lot of confidence to appear in front of such a large audience." Co-star Kesem agreed. "During the filming of the video we were nervous and didn't have much self-confidence, but that passed quickly as we connected with the kids in the video."

Negba Commences Independent Organizational Assessment and Strategic Planning Process to Improve Effectiveness and Map Future Directions

As part of Negba's aim to help children at-risk as effectively as possible, Negba has begun an intensive evaluation and planning process led by Nova, a volunteer organization providing nonprofit consulting. The evaluation will assess Negba's abilities, resources and managerial processes, to help Negba strategically define areas for growth. The assessment will include interviews with staff, volunteers and board members of the organization, as well as conversations with independent sources familiar with Negba's work, and the needs of the community in the area of care for children at-risk.

"After 10 years of activity which earned us recognition for the professional quality of our work, we felt it was time to stop and think how to best utilize the experience and knowledge we've accumulated," said Yael Elon, Vice Chair of Negba. "We've begun a process of translating the vision of Negba's founders to focused areas of activity, both existing and new ones. Our goal is to leverage our strengths for the benefit of children at-risk, and to ensure the long-term stability of Negba."

