

Safety Is No Accident: Negba's Programming Staff Takes Refresher CPR Course



Negba's educational staff receives ongoing in-service training and enrichment to help them develop quality activities for Negba's kids. They also prepare to care for the children in case of emergencies through mandatory first aid instruction. The 44-hour course drills them in the basics of treating scrapes and burns, to responding to more serious, and possibly life threatening, emergencies.

"It's critical that our staff is equipped to handle all kinds of crises, first and foremost medical ones," said Eyal Peretz, Negba's Program and Human Resources Director. "Each year, there also are many new National Service volunteers, who are directly involved with the kids all the time. They have to be ready, since they are likely the first responders in the event of an emergency, heaven forbid."

Music Appreciation as a Means to Foster Development; A New Project for Negba's Children, In Cooperation with the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheva

Music punctuates our everyday lives, often without our noticing it. We passively absorb its sounds while standing on the drugstore line or watching TV. But music's pervasiveness, and the casual nature of most interactions with it, cloud the potential music appreciation holds as a growth tool for children at-risk.



Negba recently launched a cooperative project with the Israel Sinfonietta in Beersheva, aiming to utilize the capacity of music appreciation. Fifty of Negba's children ages 6-9 will participate in music appreciation workshops with musicians of the Sinfonietta, and then attend five of the Sinfonietta's concerts during the year. "I enjoy the workshops and the music very much," said Yonatan, 8. "Music helps me relax when I'm doing my schoolwork and concentrate on what I'm doing," he said.

His friend Aviel, 8, agreed. "I love the sounds of the violin and trumpet. Music makes me feel good. I would also love to learn how to sing."

Indeed, research indicates that music appreciation bolsters self-esteem, fosters emotional development, and aids in coping with stressful situations. These are all goals that Negba strives to achieve with the children in its care, and music appreciation will now serve as an additional tool in Negba's holistic plan to advance the wellbeing of its children. To maximize the project's impact on the children, the project includes preparatory workshops for Negba's counselors with Sinfonietta musicians, providing the counselors with techniques to integrate music appreciation into Negba's enrichment activities.

Computers Installation Mini-Course Offered at Negba's Teen Club

When it became time to upgrade the computers at one of Negba's Teen Club groups, Negba's IT Manager Ary Brami decided to innovate; rather than buying new and fully equipped computers, Ary saw an opportunity to create a mini-course on computers installation for the 15-17 year olds at the Teen Club, and refurbish the old computers using the teens' help. Ary's mini-course offered theoretical learning followed by practical application with the teens themselves assembling hardware and then installing software.

The hands-on workshop was a big success. "In school they talk a lot about computers, but to be able to put them together ourselves was great," said Aviv, 15. Friend Anatoly, also 15, agreed. "I hope Ary and Negba will rely on us to assemble and maintain computers at other Negba clubs." Who knows, perhaps Aviv and Anatoly are now on track for a career in high-tech?

