FOR THE FIRST TIME: AN INCLUSIVE CAMPUS FOR TODDLERS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN RA'ANANA

“Beit Raz”, a new educational center of Beit Issie Shapiro, will open in September 2025. It will combine a mainstream daycare with an early intervention center under the supervision of the Ministry of Education. A team of experts will implement an innovative program that includes joint activities and adapted facilities to allow toddlers to develop in an inclusive and accepting space.

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Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel’s leading organization in the field of disabilities and a special advisor to the United Nations, is initiating a groundbreaking educational initiative: establishing "Beit Raz," the first campus of its kind in Israel to bring together toddlers with and without disabilities between the ages of one and three.

Innovative model with expert support

The center will be operated by a professional team specializing in special education and developmental support for toddlers.

"We have created a unique model that combines belonging to their individual programs with opportunities for meeting and mutual enrichment," explains Hanna Yamin-Chreki, VP of Professional Services at Beit Issie Shapiro. According to her, the center will include a fully equipped Gymboree, adapted equipment and facilities, and integrated classes accessible to all children.

Hanna, VP of Beit Issie Shapiro: "Studies show that early exposure to a diverse and inclusive educational environment in early childhood lays the foundations for healthy social-emotional development. Our model allows every toddler to develop confidence and a sense of belonging, with gradual and tailored exposure to broader social circles."

The educational model is based on the SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) approach, which has been adapted for early childhood and the reality of life in Israel. This approach focuses on developing self-awareness, managing emotions, social awareness, social skills, and decision-making.

The professional team will mediate and support interactions between the children during joint activities, which include free play, movement, music, and sensory stimulation.

Customized adapted equipment and facilities (Photo: Shutterstock)

An organization with international influence

Beit Issie Shapiro impacts the lives of approximately 500,000 children and adults with disabilities and their families every year. It advances the quality of life of people with disabilities by developing innovative educational and therapeutic services, influencing policy, and leading social change activities.

The organization, which has served as a special consultant to the UN since 2012, provides services to children and adults with a wide range of developmental disabilities.

The center will operate Sunday-Thursday, between 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM, and on Fridays from 7:30 AM. Orientation days will be held next month for interested families. This initiative is expected to serve as a model for other educational frameworks in Israel.

For more details, visit the Beit Issie Shapiro website.

(The above is a translation of a Hebrew article that appeared in Ynet. Click here to see the original article.)