2018 Demographics and Target Population

The Judith Pfeuffer Day Care Center Network at Ezer Mizion cared for 182 children in 19 classes in the 2018 school year.

The classes – located in 4 different cities, Bnei Brak, Petach Tikva, Ramat Gan and Rehovot - are divided into 8 classes for children with ASD and 11 classes for children with multiple disabilities.

Classes have between 8 and 10 children. The day care network operates 6 days a week: Sunday through Thursday from 7:30 AM - 3:30 pm and Fridays from 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Location (City)</th>
<th># Classes</th>
<th>Target Population: # children with ASD</th>
<th>Target Population: # children with multi - disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bnei Brak</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petach Tikvah</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramat Gan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehovot</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
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In 2018 Ezer Mizion’s Judith Pfeuffer Day Care Center Network served children who live in 17 different cities throughout central Israel including:

| Children’s City of Residence | Bat Yam | Kiryat Ono | Rishon Lezion | Bnei Brak | Mazkeret Batya | Rosh Ha’ayin | Ganei Tikvah | Petach Tikvah | Tel Aviv | Givat Shmuel | Ramat Gan | Tel Aviv - Yafo | Kfar Sirkin | Rehovot | Yavneh | Kiryat Ekron | Yahud |

Division of Responsibility, Continued Professional Development

We have chosen as our therapy model the following setup: Each field of therapy (Psychology, Social work, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy and pedagogical supervision and DIR) has a professional director with expertise in his/her respective field. Under each professional director we employ supervisors to work with, direct and supervise the therapists working hands-on with the children.

Every 2 months the professional directors run a meeting with all of the staff in their area of expertise. At these meetings they have a journal club where they discuss recent articles of interest in their particular profession, do case studies and bring in outside lecturers.

If a staff member has gone for outside training they present a summary of the course they participated in. This is all done to keep our staff fully updated on new treatment methods, latest
studies and innovations. One of our main mottos is to keep abreast of latest and cutting edge treatment for the benefit of the children in our care. Each supervisor is matched to the para-medical staff’s level of expertise and needs.

We invest in our staff’s professional growth and enrichment. We are required to provide supervision to staff members in the first three years following their accreditation. We provide this to them and to our more experienced staff as well.

Every staff member is entitled to 3 work days to attend outside conferences and workshops in areas that are beneficial to their professional development. Many times Ezer Mizion subsidizes or sponsors the cost of the workshops, commensurate with the amount of time and hours the staff member is employed by us. This is to encourage the staff’s professional advancement, again, to maximize the benefit for children’s in our care.

We also promote and offer our staff opportunity for professional growth. Staff members who have worked under supervision for a number of years can move on to become a supervisor in our framework. Knowing that there is room for advancement within the system keeps our staff motivated and growth oriented, upgrading the professional standard of the entire network.

Unique to Ezer Mizion is pedagogic supervisors for the special education teacher of each class. We have found this greatly upgrades the professional level of our care.

Staff Enrichment

In November 2017 Ezer Mizion hosted a training course in OPT (as reported to you in the planning stages last year). Over 75 professionals participated in this training course, both from daycare network staff, other para medical staff within Ezer Mizion and outside guest professionals. OPT is now one of the tools that we use in the day care center network to advance the children’s oral development.
This past year we put tremendous emphasis on the area of nourishment. This will continue into the coming school year as well.

The OPT course was one of the ways we advanced this area. Additionally, we invited dieticians from the Ministry of Health to address our staff. In attendance were the staff of the Eating Clinic in Schneider’s Children’s Hospital. The Ministry of Health were very pleased with our staff’s approach and made special mention of the wonderful professional and care collaboration between our professional staff and the cooperation between the day care and kitchen staff in building a custom menu for each of the children.

We created an intake form for parents to fill out even before our first meeting with them. If we see that the child has poor nutrition or eating issues, we invite our clinical dietician to attend the intake meeting. We find this to be extremely efficient and beneficial to the child’s development. This way, already from the very first day of his care at Ezer Mizion, we work on his nutritional health and development.

**Children’s Enrichment**

**NEW IN 2018!** An addition to the standard therapies required in every special education day care center, we have added music therapy for the children. This is working out beautifully. We divide the class into small groups of about 4 children who meet 2 times a week with the music therapist. The children clearly love the experience and we find out to be a very enriching for the kids.

We also invest a lot of time and attention in meeting with the parents, hearing their goals, listening to their pain and frustrations in raising their child with special needs and accompanying them through the process of maximizing their child’s potential. Every set of parents meets every 4-6 weeks with their designated social worker for this purpose.

**Plans for the coming school year 2018-19**

A conference is planned for Winter 2019 on the topic of special needs children, mainly Down Syndrome and CP (who are well represented in our Day Care Centers). Presenting will be Dr. Ariel Tanenbaum, an expert pediatrician and the Director of the Down Syndrome Medical Center in Hadassah Ein Karem in Jerusalem. He is also an advisor for the Sheirut L’maan Hayeled on the topic of adoption. And the Medical Director of the Day Care Center Network, Dr. Gary Diamand, Neurologist with a specialty in Child Development, will be presenting at this conference.

There will be 4 enrichment days throughout the year attended by all our staff together. The first meeting will take place during the first week of the new school year. There will be lectures on 1) DIR therapy and 2) Maintaining productive communication with the parents. We have also invited the parents of a child in our care who will share with the staff their experience in discovering that their beloved child has special needs. They have created a film called “From Tel Aviv to Holland” describing this experience and they will be showing this as well.

Another goal of the coming year is to tighten the professional collaboration between Ezer Mizion’s Judith Pfeuffer Day Care Center Network and Ezer Mizion’s Kindergartens. The staff of both networks will grow from their professional interactions and will ultimately benefit the children in our care, especially those who graduate from our daycare to our nurseries.
Further Development

We are under a lot of pressure from government ministries to open more classes for the new 2018-2019 school year. We will be focusing on maintaining and upgrading our highly professional standard in the classes that already exist. Along with that, in response to the need, it is likely that we will be opening new classes in the coming school year classes.

Currently the ASD classes in Petach Tikvah are divided into 2 buildings. We are seeking a premises that will be able to hold our 3 current classes and have the capacity to accommodate another class.

Success Story

When S. came to the daycare center, she was not speaking. She displayed social anxiety and had motor function challenges, as well as pronounced sensory integration difficulties, expressed by visual provocations and stereotypical motions in the course of the day. S. experienced a slow and painful adjustment to preschool, which led to the decision to begin the adjustment again, this time, with S. alone in a separate room with an assistant. The new adjustment was a success. A few days later, S. entered the Gan and began to show interest in the goings-on. She was able to calm down from crying for increasingly extended periods of time.

In the course of the year S. received paramedical therapy, with an emphasis on the communication aspect and the DIR method. Slowly but surely, S. began making eye contact with the staff and even showing intimacy during the therapy sessions. In addition, S. learned to play functionally with didactic games and began producing her first words.

By the end of the year, substantial progress was seen in S.’s functioning. She came to Gan happily, put words together, expressed requests and feelings, and began forging social connections with the other children. S. remained in the day nursery for another year, during which she was placed with the higher-functioning group of children. S. was successfully toilet-trained and began eating a wide range of foods, after a long period of pickiness, when she’d eat only plain bread, Bamba, Similac, and one specific kind of flavored yogurt.

S. completed her second year able to utter sentences and to carry on basic conversation. She had become friends with the other children in Gan. S. also showed substantial and significant improvement in her motor and communication skills. S. went on to another year of a municipal “Gan Safah” — preschool with therapy support — and we were recently informed that for the coming year, she will be mainstreamed into a regular preschool.
Sharing Thank You Letters

To... and to... and to...

In short, to all of you together, and to each one individually!!!

This is the opportunity to open our hearts wide
And express a bit of what we feel inside
About your uncompromising work and dedication
Goal-setting, persistence on every occasion,
Yet, at every stage, what stands strongly apart,
Is your warm, loving, encouraging heart,
Strengthening us and keeping us aware,
That no matter what – never despair!
With full responsibility and endless devotion,
You celebrate each bit of progress with emotion,
Never forgetting to write it and share,
Each line in the notebook showing how much you care.
We feel as if you are holding our hand.
Your thoughtful support shows how deeply you understand.
With delicate warmth, our Ushi you embraced,
And with huge patience, you brought him to a different place.
You gave without limit, in endless pursuit,
And it was all worth it — just look at the fruit!!

Our deeply felt thanks to all of you we send,
And we’ll add our blessing that you continue without end
With all the wonderful work you do here.
May Hashem enable you to do so for many a year!!
To help and promote, turning over each stone,
And to reap the harvest of all you have sown!

With lots of appreciation and gratitude
Chen

Welcome to Holland

When a baby is due to be born, it’s something like planning a marvelous vacation trip — to Italy. You get hold of a few guidebooks and prepare a terrific itinerary: to see the Colosseum, Michelangelo’s statue of David, the gondolas in Venice. You might try to learn some useful Italian phrases. It’s all very exciting.

After a few months of eager anticipation, the longed-for day arrives. You pack your suitcases and travel for a few hours. Then the plane lands and the stewardess stands up and says, “Welcome to Holland!”

“What do you mean, Holland?” you say. “What do you mean, Holland? I signed up for a trip to Italy! I’m supposed to be in Italy! All my life, I dreamt of a trip to Italy!”

“But there was a change in plans. The plane has landed in Holland and this is where you have to stay.

“The important thing is that they didn’t choose a terrible, disgusting, polluted place full of plagues, hunger and disease. It’s just a different place.”

So you have to go out and buy different guidebooks and learn an entirely different language. You meet a totally new group of people that you otherwise would never have met.

It’s just a different place. The pace is slower than in Italy. It’s less flashy than Italy. But after you are there for a while and begin to breathe easier, you look around and notice that in Holland, there are windmills; in Holland, there are tulips; in Holland, there are even Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming back from Italy, and they’re all bragging about what a fantastic trip they had to Italy, and for the rest of your life, you’ll say, “Yes, that’s where I was supposed to go. That’s what I’d planned.”
The pain this brings will never be erased, because the loss of a dream is a very significant loss.

But if you spend the rest of your life mourning the fact that you never got to Italy, it could be that you’ll never feel free to enjoy the special, very nice things in Holland.

So, thank you from the depths of our hearts to Chen, Michal, Estie, Efrat, Sarit, Shoshie, Dina, Hagar, Re’ut, Avital, Emunah, Yael, Kochava

For being such a significant and primary part of our touchdown in Holland.

Thank you for countless meetings, discussions, words of encouragement, compliments, appreciation, acceptance, advice, determination, persistence, and boundless love for our little children.

You are a special, one-of-a-kind staff — warm, loving, and dedicated. Thank you for e-e-e-everything! We wish you much success in the future.

With no end of love, appreciation, and admiration,
To the Special, Beloved Staff of Gan Petel

When we stood at the door, frightened and shy,
You rolled out the carpet and helped us get by.
When we were so nervous, with trembling heart,
You gave us the confidence we’d lost at the start.

Nothing escaped your loving gaze,
Such a dedicated staff, in all different ways.

Each child was made to feel special, unique,
One by one, your attention they’d seek
You gave them a smile, a song, a caress,
And shared with the family every success.

A photo was taken of each special occasion,
You thought of us all, your heart full of dedication.

As the year concludes, all we can say:
You helped us to wend our difficult way.
It’s hard to part, may you all be blessed
And may Hashem fulfill your every request.

With love and appreciation,
The children of Gan Petel and their parents

5778
To the Marvelous Gan Staff!

So suddenly, the day has come
When we must part and say “Shalom.”
It seems like only yesterday
When we first met on opening day.
We learned the rules and met new kids,
Had circle time and crafts we did,
In the spacious yard, we played and grew,
Each day discovering something new
When Yom Tov came, we danced and sang.
We brought home artwork for our parents to hang.

Slowly but surely, we — and our parents, too — fell in love with the amazing staff and their remarkable capacity for giving, love, and support.

Now, when to the Gan we come,
No one’s shy, afraid, or glum,
The staff is eagerly waiting there,
To greet the happy kids with cheer,
No detail escapes their eye:
“New sandals? What a handsome tie!
“Such a neat ponytail, couldn’t be better.
“It’s cool today, good you wore a sweater!”
Day after day, the whole year through,
For us children, you were “Ima number two.”
You were teacher, therapist, doctor,
and even wiser
And to our parents, you were
senior adviser.

To you, dear staff, thank you so much
For your help, sharing, caring, and such,
For being so tolerant, calm, and amazing
For untiring work, dedication, and praising,
Thanks for attention, support, and updating.
For welcoming us warmly, each morning awaiting.
Thank you for all of your love and dedication
For consistent chinuch and endless patience.
We can’t believe two years have already flown
But look at us — thanks to you — how we’ve grown!
Wishing you many more years of success,
Doing the work that you all do the best!