



Women's International Zionist Organization
for an Improved Israeli Society

BEIT HA'PAAMONIM - THE BELLS' HOUSE



On 1 January 2006, WIZO began operating Beit HaPa'amonim – a boarding facility for 25 babies and toddlers aged 0 – 4 years old that are candidates for adoption, located in Central Israel.

Among the children are day year old babies that arrive at the facility straight from the hospital, and/or babies that have been taken from their biological families and/or from foster families upon Court referrals.

THE SERVICE

The goal of the service is to protect the children, candidates for adoption while guaranteeing treatment and answers to their specific needs. The Service is responsible to analyze the children from every aspect in order to furnish their daily needs and in order to prepare them for a permanent home as part of the adoption process.

The facility is operated 24/7, 365 days a year including weekends and Chagim.

Due to the facility's characteristics, the staff is extensive and includes: a Director, personal caregivers, shift supervisors (also caregivers), a child development paediatrician, a child development psychologist, a physiotherapist, a movement caregiver, a cook, a cleaning lady, an employee that accompanies children to meetings, a maintenance man /gardener and others.

NURSERY AND KINDERGARDEN SERVICES

The children receive nursery services on the premises, as there are difficulties to integrate them into community frameworks. Their personal, special and intensified emotional, developmental, cognitive and social needs prevent their absorption in normative community facilities.

Notwithstanding, in regard to the toddlers, especially those who are over two years old, each case is examined and possibilities are checked to see if they can visit educational frameworks outside Bells' House. Sending the toddler to an educational framework in the community is effected in coordination with the Supervisor from Children's Services in the Ministry of Welfare, and taking into account medical and psychological opinions and also that of the caregivers in regard to the toddler. The framework's ability to address the toddler's needs is also a factor in the decision (the size of the group, etc...)

Among the children at Bells' House are some suffering from large developmental deficiencies and who upon the recommendations of the paediatrician / child development psychologist may

require the services of a physiotherapist, a Communication clinician etc... When possible the option of placing them in a rehabilitative kindergarden with in the community is looked into.

Additional and important factors to be addressed when considering integration into educational frameworks in the community are Bells' House's shelter status and the children's exposure to various diseases. This can be crucial and problematic especially for the other children at Bells' House that most of them are infants.

In any case those children are absorbed into educational frameworks within the community – it is for the morning hours only.

In addition to the morning activities, there is a necessity to create a broad spectrum of enriching activities for the babies and toddlers for the whole day.

BELLS' HOUSE'S SHELTER STATUS AND ITS POPULATION

The operating body must keep confidential, in compliance with the law, any information that it comes across during the operation of the facility: contents, documents, the facility's address, personal details and information pertaining to the babies, children and their families, and indeed any other information pertaining to Bells' House, its operation and the work carried out by the operator. All employees are obliged to sign a Declaration in regard to maintaining Confidentiality.