

Instructions for New Immigrants ("Olim Hadashim")/Returning Residents Who Have a Child with Autism

Upon your immigration/return to Israel we at ALUT are here at your disposal to assist you with any question or difficulty that may arise regarding the integration of your child in the most suitable educational Framework. It is true that there are and will be many difficulties, but ALUT will stand right by you and will assist you as much as it can.

There are a number of authorities and entities you will need to contact in order to ensure your rights and your child's entry into the educational framework most suitable for him/her. On this page we tried to concentrate the first steps you will need to take with regard to your PDD diagnosed child shortly after you arrive in Israel.

1. First of all, you should go to the **Ministry of Interior** ("Misrad Hapnim") and request the issuance of an ID card ("Teudat Zehut").
2. **Finding an Educational Framework:**
 - If your child is under the age of 3, the Service for Handling People with Autism, which belongs to the Ministry of Welfare, provides day care services for children with Autism or services of an aiding teacher in a regular day care. In order to receive such service you will have to go to the Social Services Bureau of the municipality in which you intend to live. There you should ask to speak with a social worker that belongs to the Service for Handling People with Autism and to open a file for your child. Ask the social worker to introduce the services available for him there. You will need to submit diagnostic reports (it is possible to try to submit reports in English).
 - If your child is at the age of 3-21, you must turn to the Education Department in the municipality of the city in which you intend to live, equipped with an Israeli ID Card and an up-to-date diagnostic report about your child. You have the option of registering your child to a special education framework which is attuned to children with communication disabilities (ASD), such as: A special communication kindergarten, a special communication school or a small communication class in a regular school. In order to designate your child to one of the special education programs you need to ask for a Placement Committee ("Va'adat Hasama"), in which you will participate and which will decide whether your child is entitled to special education and later on will appropriate the specific educational framework most suitable for your child. Another option is to integrate your child in a regular educational framework with the assistance of an aiding teacher, which is employed by the relevant municipality. If you choose this option you will need to first register your child to the kindergarten or school and only then ask for an Integration Committee ("Va'adat Shiluv") from the principal of the school, or in the case of

kindergarten from the head of the relevant Regional Settlement Support Center – "Matya"- which belongs to the municipality of the city in which you intent to live. You will participate in the committee's meeting.

If you will not be visiting in Israel before the time of immigration/return and you wish to arrange your child's educational framework in advance, you can write to the Education Department of the municipality of the city in which you intent to live. You should write a letter asking for a Placement Committee ("Va'adat Hasama") without your participation and enclose all relevant documents (which can be in English). It is recommended to send a detailed diagnostic report and documents from your child's educational framework in your country. The documents should be addressed to the head of the Education Department of the relevant municipality and to the head of the Placement Committee.

3. Turning to the Israeli Social Security Institution ("Bituach Leumi"):

Children that are diagnosed on the Autistic Spectrum are entitled to a special needs monthly allowance from the Israeli Social Security Institution. Beyond this monthly allowance, if your child is under the age of 3 his/her integration in a special communication day-care center is conditioned upon recognition by the Israeli Social Security Institution. In order to receive recognition of the Social Security Institution you will need to present a current integrated diagnosis- a diagnostic report from a doctor (Psychiatrist/ neurologist/ developmental doctor) and a diagnostic report from a developmental or clinical psychologist. The reports may be in English as long as they withstand the criteria of the Israeli Social Security Institution.

4. Turning to the Ministry of Welfare ("Misrad Harevaha"):

Another place you should visit at, if you have not already been there, is the Social Services Bureau of the Welfare Department in the municipality of the city in which you intend to live. At this bureau you should turn to a social worker that belongs to the Service for Handling People with Autism and have him open a file for your child. You will, of course, need to bring with you diagnostic reports. The social worker will provide you with information about the different services available to you from the Ministry of Welfare, such as: Summer camps, vacation camps, participation in financing a tutor for the after school hours, hostels, occupational centers etc.

5. Turning to the Family Centers of Alut:

This service provides an answer for families raising children with Autism in Israel and today includes appx. 6 branches throughout the country. At the family center you will be able to receive information about various subjects, such as: Background information about the disability, treatment

methods, names of professionals, information about legal rights etc. You can also receive guidance and legal assistance in achieving your rights. In addition, the family centers operate support groups intended for parents, siblings and grandparents. Also various lectures are held at the centers. You may contact the family centers at phone number: +972-3-6703077 between 9:00 and 15:00 local time, or by e-mail: b_lauren@netvision.net.il

Wishing you a smooth and pleasant absorption in Israel,

The team at Beit Lauren Family Center of Alut