

PACT



in Lod, Israel

When the Jews of Ethiopia fulfilled their dream and moved to Israel, they experienced a complex and challenging transition. The

young children faced vast educational, developmental and social gaps, and their parents did not know how to access the help they needed to grow and thrive.

In Lod, PACT (Parents and Children Together) provides a comprehensive educational and community service for Ethiopian-Israeli families.

In Well Baby Clinics, PACT provides check-ups, promotes health awareness and offers guidance to parents with young children.

In daycares, PACT offers subsidies so the youngest children can encounter a wide range of educational and social opportunities.

The program ensures that the children receive the stimulation they need.



In kindergartens, PACT prepares children for success in first grade through innovative programs, including:

- The Literacy Enrichment Program, which **builds Hebrew language skills**, teaching the fundamentals of reading and writing along with basic math concepts.
- Dancing Kindergarten, which **encourages children to follow instructions, develop coordination and appreciate other cultures.**
- Animal therapy, which **addresses behavioral, emotional and cognitive challenges** including bedwetting, anxiety and painful shyness, involving parents in the therapeutic process.

Each family is assigned a social worker, who becomes a familiar and trusted face. She identifies relevant treatments and connects with social service agencies. She guides families through social security and helps them understand their other rights as Israeli citizens. In addition, PACT community liaisons inform parents about existing municipal services, encourage them to become involved in their children's schools, and infuse school curricula with Ethiopian-Israeli culture.

A Special Needs Fund provides financial assistance for basic necessities like developmental toys for infants, eyeglasses and hearing aids. A Family Enrichment Center provides communal activities for families.

The work of PACT has created real change in Lod and other cities across Israel: parents are utilizing service and enrolling their kids in daycare, and the kids are achieving more in school. PACT is providing Ethiopian-Israeli children and their parents with the tools they need to succeed.



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