

January-February 2009 Newsletter

As promised here is news of a new project which the Talia Trust has initiated in addition to the on-going ones.

Although we intended to begin the S'dot Negev project for young children from settlements which border the Gaza strip last December, the recent war has postponed the start date. The Education Director of the Regional Council, Motty Edry, hopes to begin this innovative project as soon as the children's lives have settled again. Some of them moved out of their kibbutzim and moshavim for part of the war, taken out of their routine to stay with family or friends in other parts of the country. For others, reacting to sounds of artillery firing and missiles became their routine. The project has grown out of the Talia Trust's successful pre-school preparation week in August 2007. Its purpose is to help those first grade children who not only have been experiencing the stress of sirens and bombing and anxiety of relocation but also have cognitive and emotional problems which affect their ability to learn as easily as their peers. Before the recent war, Motty was speaking of around 35 such children in his local council area. It remains to be seen whether the numbers have gone up and whether we will be able to help more of them. The project is to continue until the end of this current school year.