



Fifth Talia Trust newsletter May 2009

During the past two months we have had numerous requests for help from the Talia Trust. For example, there was the teenage girl who wanted a special machine which would help her and her brother, both dyslexics, practice reading. When we heard the price of the machine, we had to regretfully refuse her request, as for the same sum we could help three children who needed didactic testing or pay for 20 hours with a psychologist for an attention deficient boy. That is our dilemma: how to spread around the meagre resources at our disposal most effectively.

In the last month, we have had several urgent requests directly from parents who have seen our web-site. All live in smaller local authorities, which are unable to finance extra help for children with specific learning difficulties who are in regular education. So the parents are expected to carry the burden of paying for afternoon classes and therapies. Like in the case of the teenage girl above, we were impressed by the parents' initiative in finding us and moved by their plight. After receiving the appropriate proof from educational psychologists and social workers, we were able to decide to what extent the Talia Trust can help this academic year.

L., who lives near Tel Aviv, is aged over 11 but his reading age is only 9. His mother is pleased that the local education authority plans to send him to a special needs school in September, but worries that he is not progressing at present. In particular she is concerned that he won't be able to read his bar mitzvah portion. At present L. needs special after-school classes to teach him how to learn, while his parents need on-going advice from an educational psychologist to deal with his temper outbreaks. Our committee has decided to finance L's programme between now and September, when hopefully it will be taken over by his new school. The committee thinks that it is really important for L. to feel encouraged and believe in his own ability to achieve.

Last week a school near Jerusalem contacted us to ask if we could finance extra help for a deaf child who also has learning difficulties. Again, help is needed for the latter problem but the parents find all their resources going on the former. We are now awaiting reports from all the authorities concerned to see if this child's problems fall within the Talia Trust's area of action.

The requests for larger programmes still continue, but we never forget the main aim of the Talia Trust, which is to help individual families give their children a boost in order that they can achieve their full potential.

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