



### October 2010 Talia Trust newsletter

Following the exciting annual Talia Trust Family Fun event in the Carmel Forest during Succot (see [www.taliatrust.org](http://www.taliatrust.org) for photos), it is now time to catch up on our various projects. Though the school year began a month ago, the children have been in school only half that time due to the festival holiday period. Now everyone has gone back to a concentrated and, we hope, successful school year, and we will soon have reports on how each project is going.

Sometimes those of us involved in the day-to-day running of the Talia Trust need to be encouraged by evidence that what we are doing is really needed. This has happened twice in the last few weeks. First there was an article in the Ha'aretz newspaper that showed the high financial cost of learning disabilities to parents, some 4,000 shekels a year for each child.

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/business/the-cost-of-learning-disabilities-1.315391>  
[http://www.themarket.com/tmc/article.jhtml?ElementId=skira20100921\\_1190176](http://www.themarket.com/tmc/article.jhtml?ElementId=skira20100921_1190176)

Then we received an interesting letter from A., the educational advisor at one of the S'dot HaNegev schools which participates in the Circles of Strength project, which the Talia Trust helps to finance.

She told us about N. who is now aged 7. N. came to first grade after kindergarten assessment which suspected multiple problems, particularly in attention and concentration, organization, social interaction and carrying out educational tasks. Preliminary tests in the school showed that here was a child who did not have the basic skills needed for reading which a 6 year old is expected to have. In addition her self-confidence was very low and she had difficulty interpreting social codes and situations.

The school team built a special programme for N, which included extra hours of remedial reading and occupational therapy from within the Circles of Strength project. After 3 months the improvement was already noticeable, both in educational and social achievements. From being just a shadow in the classroom, a little girl who was too embarrassed to read aloud and never played with the others, she became accepted and even a class leader by the end of the school year. "She now can read and although she is going to need a lot of support as she progresses through school, N. certainly now has the strength to succeed, to overcome difficulties and to move forward" wrote A.

*Marilyn Hyman*

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