

Making mainstream kindergartens more disability inclusive

ISRAEL / KREMBO WINGS - KREMBO KINDERGARTEN

Krembo Wings is an Israeli youth movement organized as an NGO that supports young persons with disabilities. It has developed a training programme for educational teams in kindergartens and young elementary school classes whereby kindergartens receive a detailed teacher's curriculum as well as tools and guidance to develop a comprehensive and inclusive discourse in a kindergarten. The curriculum exists in Hebrew and Arabic and has grown from four kindergartens to twelve across two municipalities between 2022 and 2023.

Problem targeted

There is a lack of readiness of mainstream kindergarten teachers to implement inclusive processes, often due to the lack of training and inclusive education plans.

Solution, innovation, and impact

Educational staff who take part in the programme participate in four to eight group training sessions, which include foundations of inclusive education, dreams and goal settings, introduction to sensory regulation, communication and educational partnership with parents, and the fundamentals of self-advocacy. In addition, a professional staff member attends the classrooms approximately five times a year to guide the educational staff according to their needs. The professional staff members include an occupational therapist, a special education teacher with the focus on integrating technologies and complex disabilities, a certified parent instructor, and a coach-mediator. Moreover, the participants receive an online booklet with ideas for games that increase communication and friendship.

An example of a classroom activity is the daily selection of 'Krembo supervisors' from among the children. Their role throughout the day is to pay attention to the social dynamics of all the kindergarten children, and at the end of the day to share with them what had occurred and what can be learned from it.



"Without noticing, the children acquire competencies that are a privilege to acquire at such a young age."

Ofek Levi, a Krembo kindergarten teacher



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The Krembo Wings training programme makes kindergartens in Israel more inclusive.

The programme initially began in Hebrew and within the Jewish cities, but now operates in Arabic in the Arab communities as well.

Outlook, transferability, and funding

Funding comes from a variety of sources, including government and local government support, donations from foundations and federations throughout the world, private donors, and fundraising activities by members.

Krembo Wings plans to partner with two more local municipalities that have adopted the programme for all the kindergartens under their supervision. Those municipalities will receive a hybrid training programme, including face-to-face training and online synchronic and a-synchronic educational materials.

FACTS & FIGURES

Start: 2020

- Between 2020 and 2023 more than 560 children have participated in the programme.
- Between 2022 and 2023 the initiative grew from four kindergartens to twelve across two municipalities.
- A project of Civil Society.