



Just.Childhood
NGO Registration
Lebanon: 2112
Germany: AG Hamburg VR 22330

just.childhood
جست تشايلدهود

just.childhood

Bait al-Shams Annual Report 2017

We color our lives with education



CONTACT

Address Germany

Just.Childhood e.V
Babendiekstr. 37
22587 Hamburg

Address Lebanon

Bait Al- Shams Kindergarten
Shishneye Building, Shatila Camp

Phone & Fax

Germany

Phone: +49 40 86642452
Mobile: +49 170 5444528

Lebanon

Mobile: +961 71 485 959
Mobile: +961 71 965 962

Online

Email: wiebke.eden-fleig@justchildhood.org

Website: www.justchildhood.org

just.childhood

Bait al-Shams Annual Report 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 | WHO WE ARE PAGE 4

SECTION 2 | BOARD AND THE TEAM PAGE 6

SECTION 3 | BACKGROUND PAGE 8

SECTION 4 | METHODOLOGY PAGE 10

SECTION 5 | SUMMARY OF 2017 PAGE 12

SECTION 6 | OUTCOMES PAGE 18

SECTION 7 | OUTLOOK 2018 PAGE 20

SECTION 8 | CONCLUSION PAGE 20

SECTION 9 | DONORS PAGE 20

SECTION 10 | SUCCESS STORIES PAGE 22

SECTION 11 | BUDGET PAGE 24



WHO WE ARE?



ABOUT US

BAIT AL-SHAMS KINDERGARTEN

With Bait al-Shams, just.childhood is offering the children of Shatila Refugee Camp a safe space for learning and simply being a child on a continuous, reliable basis and prepare them for school. We are introducing an alternative, reformatory educational approach based on internationally developed Child Protection regulations. For us it is important to teach children from an early age that they don't need to limit themselves.

The kindergarten aims at providing a vital creative outlet, which often cannot be provided by parents, and is traditionally abandoned in favor of more academic subjects by chronically underfunded schools.

In our understanding of a humanistic approach to pedagogy, learning is interdisciplinary, integrating practical, artistic and conceptual elements. Bait al-Sham's approach is based on Waldorf Early Childhood Education and emphasizes on the role of imagination in learning and developing thinking that includes a creative as well as an analytic component. We would like to provide the children the basis on which to develop into free, morally responsible and integrated individuals, and to help every child fulfill his or her unique destiny.



INFO ON THE ORGANISATION

just.childhood consists of two NGOs, a German and a Lebanese. As the German association is mainly existent to collect funds in Germany and to give donation receipts to European supporters, but also to serve as an approving authority, the Lebanese NGO is responsible for running and administering the kindergarten Bait al-Shams itself. Both NGOs are actively involved in enhancing continuous teacher training on Waldorf Early Childhood Education both in Germany and Lebanon.

“THE TEACHER WHO IS INDEED WISE DOES NOT BID YOU TO ENTER HE HOUSE OF HIS WISDOM BUT RATHER LEADS YOU TO THE

Khalil Jebran

BOARD AND THE TEAM

April 2017: Just Childhood Team during the Parent Program Evaluation Workshop in Dbayeh.



THE BOARD LEBANON

Wiebke Eden-Fleig

Political Scientist and initiator and founder of just.childhood. Has been working for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Lebanon as a Program Manager and as a journalist for the German weekly die ZEIT, as well as for the Middle East Quarterly Magazine zenith.

Samir Farah

Sociologist and Journalist who worked for the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Lebanon for 40 years, 28 of those as their country representative in Beirut. He was rewarded the German Federal Cross of Merit in 2003 and the National Order of Cedars in 1988 in honor of his great social and political earnings.

Badia Baydoun

Holds a BA in Communications Arts and Sciences and a MA in Political Science. She worked as a news editor, news anchorwoman and field reporter at Tele Liban. Also she had her own radio program at Radio Libanon and worked as a news editor and news presenter for the National News Agency and for Radio Liban. Worked in all three jobs for more than 20 years. Badia Baydoun started to work as Program Manager at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Beirut in 2001.

Hassan Dakroub

Is Joint General Manager at Sarnia Marine Brokerage based in Cyprus. But now, after more than 35 years in shipping and marine insurance, his interest is focused on fundraising and assisting several NGOs in several countries.

Elie Karam

IT expert and manager in a multinational company. He is holding a degree in Finance.

THE TEAM BAIT AL-SHAMS

Wiebke Eden-Fleig

CEO & Program Manager

Rabieh Ali El Tayeh

Program Coordinator

Samah Rmieh

Kindergarten Educator

Khadijeh Taha

Kindergarten Educator

Hanaa Kublawi

Kindergarten Educator

Layal al Hajj Ali

Kindergarten Educator

Inas Alajouz

Kindergarten Educator

Fadia Mohammad

Kindergarten Educator

Zeinab Moussa

Kindergarten Educator

Maher Shehadeh

Communications Manager

October 2017: Olive Harvest in the Chouf's village of Kitirmaya.





April 2017: Evaluation workshop of the Parent Program in Dbayeh.

BACK- GROUND

BACKGROUND JUST.CHILDHOOD

Already the fourth generation of Palestinian refugee's lives in a hostile environment, is denied basic human rights, and has no effective means of representation or education. Worldwide the number of protracted refugee groups is increasing; nevertheless responses to refugee situations are still driven by the assumption that they are short-term.

Originally hosting hundreds of refugees, Shatila has grown since 1949 to more than 12,000 registered Palestinian refugees. With the influx of Syrian refugees into Palestinian camps there are currently more than 22,000 people living in Shatila. It is one of the 12 official long-term camps for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, situated in a poor area of Beirut that was badly damaged during the civil war. It is probably best known of all the Palestinian camps because of the 1982 massacre in which thousands of people were killed.

The entire camp comprises one square kilometer and thus has an exceptionally high population density. After almost 70 years thousands of Palestinian refugees still live in temporary shelters in overcrowded, unsanitary camps where unemployment and poverty levels are high. The Lebanese restrictions on land for Palestinians have led to severe overcrowding in the camps. There is a lack of privacy and natural light. It is not surprising that all these factors lead to violence in many aspects of life (even in schools), drug abuse, as well as severe psychological problems.

Education is one of the most important pillars of development. But Palestinian children are only under certain circumstances allowed to visit Lebanese public schools and most families cannot afford private education. The schools run by the UN require the visit of a kindergarten, without offering any in Shatila. This again leads to very early school dropouts, because children are not able to follow the UN curriculum.

A qualitative study of the American University of Beirut in 2011 has analysed the UNRWA school dropouts in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon. By looking toward developing an intervention plan to address the rate of early school dropout in Palestinian refugee camps, the study concluded that dropping out could be prevented through a focused action plan. Among other measures the study recommends to provide a high quality, universal preschool and full-day kindergarten.

METHODOLOGY

Our Kindergarten Bait al-Shams is open to all children living in Shatila, giving them a safe space for learning and simply being a child on a continuous, reliable basis, and a future of possibility and hope. The appropriate and culturally sensitive humanitarian assistance is providing a foundation for sustainable development by actively involving the target group in the planning, implementation and management process.

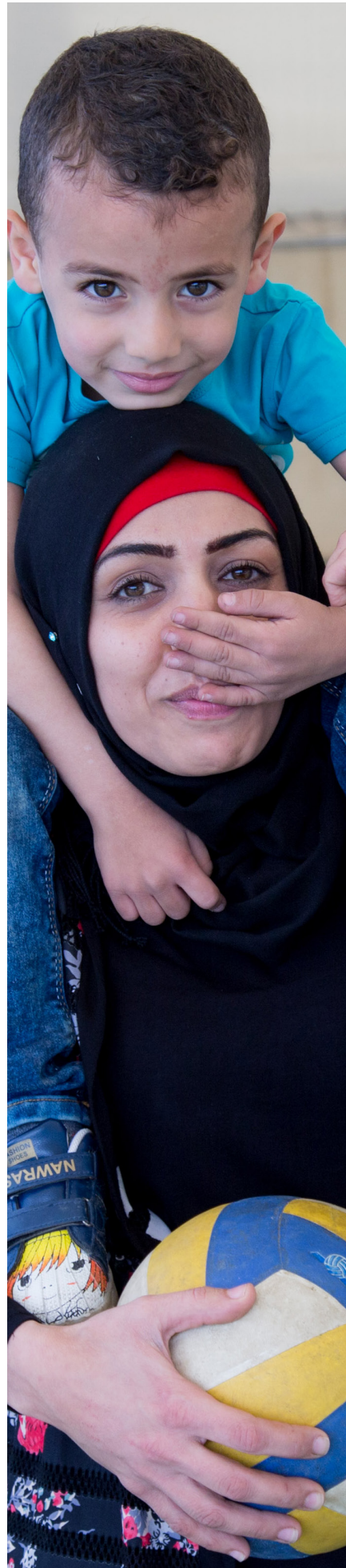
To achieve the biggest benefit for the children, the kindergarten educators will strongly rely on the help of the parents. Such collaboration includes parent-teacher conferences, courses and lectures. The kindergarten is not only open to all children living in Beirut's Shatila Camp, but also children with special needs are, if possible, welcome in our kindergarten. Currently we have three age-mixed groups with 20 children, each lead by two qualified educators.

With our work we aim at actively protecting childhood, by respecting age-appropriate life- and development conditions and making this the base of the pedagogic daily routine. In this daily routine of the group, "good habits" are initiated and cultivated according to the need of the children for rhythm and repetition of similar actions and experiences.

The competencies in language (Bait al-Shams is a bilingual kindergarten using Arabic as well as English), movement, playing, learning, and social skills that need to be achieved by entering school are supported on a permanent basis through the composition of every day life. In the year before entering school the children attend a pre-school program tailored to their needs and the schools' requirements. If possible we seek cooperation with the schools to ensure a smooth entry for the children. It should be mentioned though, that this kindergarten does not aim to be a school, but a place where children are allowed to gain their first experiences outside their families in a secure environment.

In our educational approach, which follows the Waldorf Early Childhood Education, teaching is by example rather than by direct instruction and is integrated rather than subject based. In recognition of its vital role in early childhood education, children are given time to play. Emphasis is given to regular patterns of activities both within the day and over each week. The child presents a particular set of physical, emotional and intellectual characteristics, which require a particular (empathetic) educational response in return. In Bait al-Shams we consider the first seven years as the period of greatest physical growth and development. At this time the young child's primary mode of learning is through doing and experiencing – he or she "thinks" with the entire physical being.

The nature of this learning should be self-motivated, allowing the child to come to know the world in the way most appropriate to his or her age – through active feeling, touching, exploring and imitating, in other words, through doing. Children are encouraged to master physical skills before abstract intellectual ones.



SUMMARY OF 2017

The year was second full academic cycle and was marked by some additions to our current program. The number of children grew to 57 with still many on the waiting list. We have conducted a number of capacity building activities for the team, developed our parent/community project further and are now in our second year as well. Beside our pre-school program for the children who are in their final year before entering school, we have started an afternoon learning support program for those children who left our kindergarten and entered school.

Registration

With the start of the new academic year, the number of registered children at Bait al-Shams kindergarten grew to 57. We have paid attention to gender and also age-balance in our age-mixed groups. The majority of children are Palestinian from Shatila or around, but we have admitted a number of Syrian children, whose parents found refuge in the camp.

Early Childhood Education Trainings

We are in our third year of teacher training in the kindergarten. The concept of Bait al-Shams follows the guidelines of Waldorf Early Childhood Education. In June 2015 the Early Childhood Training started with three modules before the opening of the Kindergarten. 14 modules followed until November 2017. One module comprises four to six days, including class observation in the morning, evaluation, lectures, artistic exercises, methodology in the afternoon. Subjects of the training are arranged on three levels:



April 2017: Evaluation workshop with the mothers in Dbyieh.

1. Professional skills (Methods in Waldorf Early Childhood Education; structure of day, week, year; handwork; toys; circle games; gestures; play with dolls, puppet play; paperwork; nutrition; working with parents and more.)
2. Artistic exercises (Painting; music; form-drawing; Eurythmy; storytelling.)
3. Basic concepts of Waldorf Education (Study of man: development of the child; biography; social structures; self-education.)

The trainers, coming from Germany and Great Britain, are experts in Waldorf Early Childhood Education with professional experience for many years in Waldorf kindergartens. They all graduated from Waldorf training centers. The trainers are qualified and experienced in teaching in exceptional situations, as in foreign cultures, languages, religions, under extraordinary conditions.

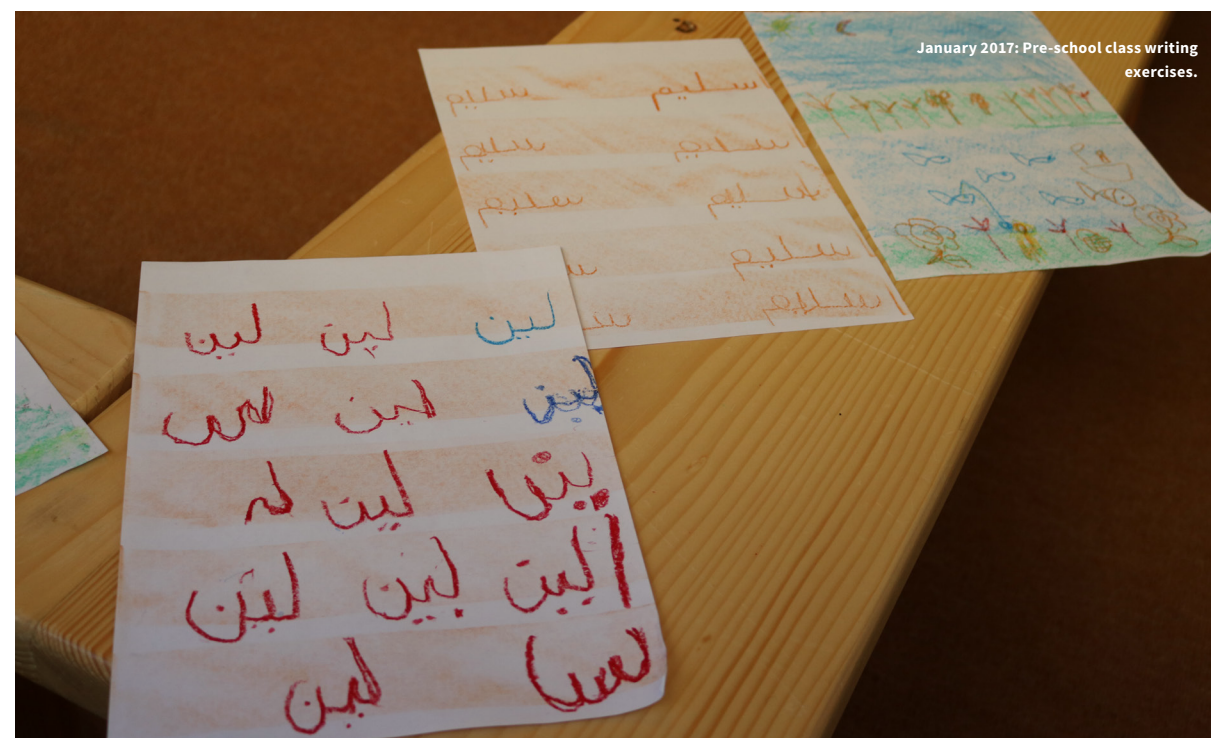
Curriculum and fields of study in the training follow the guidelines of the International Association of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE). The modules are arranged by Bernhard Merzenich, the coordinator of the training and the director of just. childhood Association, Wiebke Eden-Fleig.

With an assessment the training came to a certain conclusion on November 4th, 2017. Five educators passed successfully. With the presentations in front of the board of examiners and three colleagues from Germany and England and with the handover of certificates we reached an important step to establish Waldorf Early Childhood Education in Shatila Camp and in the Middle East. The assessment was certified by the Akademie für Waldorfpädagogik Mannheim.

Early Childhood Training in Bait al-Shams is an ongoing process. For the future we estimate three modules per year to raise up and develop consistently the quality of the kindergarten. In addition to that, we will organize trainings for teachers who will oversee our learning support program.

Other Capacity Building

activities focused on child protection organized by our donor Kindernothilfe e.V. in mid November, and several communication workshops by our communications manager.



January 2017: Pre-school class writing exercises.

Pre-School Program

This program started in September 2016 and is now in the second year. The pre-school class grew from seven children in the previous year to 26 boys and girls who will be entering school in fall 2018. Two educators are specializing in teaching the children the essential knowledge they will need by entering the school in the following academic year. In cooperation with Waldorf class teachers at schools and educators in Germany we have developed a specially tailored curriculum for our oldest children. In a creative, flexible and age-appropriate approach the children learn the English and Arabic alphabet and numbers and do simple writing and reading exercises. The children gather once a day for one hour and learn in a separate classroom according to a structured cycle consisting of movement and concentration/studying exercise. The subjects English, Arabic, Math, and Form-drawing, are taught in so-called epochs of three weeks in a row after each other before being repeated.


Roof Garden

Playing outside is one of the most important pillars of our curriculum. During the year, we were able to equip our roof with a bigger sand pit for the children to play in. Also, we have built our own gardening bucket for the children to plant and grow herbs and vegetables. Furthermore we received a new climbing frame designed and built by Kinderspielkunst e.V. and financed by Bild hilft e.V./Ein Herz für Kinder. Thanks to PCRf we were able to secure the floor and to build additional furniture for outside teaching and eating.



February 2017: Enjoying the new climbing frame on the rooftop

Parent Program




The Parent Teacher Project (Champion Parents) encouraged active participation of the parents in relation to their children both in Just.Childhood's kindergarten Bait al-Shams and at home. At the same time, the project also focused on developing the capacity of the educators. They got training in communications and public speaking in order to organize, design and conduct sessions with parents. An awareness strategic plan was developed with the participation of the educators for the coming year. Also, a 20-min video was produced with the participation of the children, parents and educators in order to raise the awareness about Bait al-Shams education system and its activities. The project was enriched through the parents' involvement in and interaction with the concept of Waldorf Education System. The parents' interest in a variety of activities ensured their understanding of the principles of the kindergarten's non-violent and age-appropriate educational approach. This process created an environment within which the parents developed a deeper understanding of Child protection values. Ten awareness sessions and three technical workshops were conducted for the parents to get familiar with Waldorf Education and to expand their creativity through developing their artistic skills. This in effect, transferred the kindergarten premises into a healthier, friendlier and safer place for parents and their children. Considering the logistic difficulties such as the timing of the parents, the differences in their commitment to participate in the sessions and workshops and other personal problems, the sessions and workshops were successfully conducted with the participation of more than 70% of the parents. These parents have actively become the ambassadors of Bait al-Shams kindergarten within the community in Shatila camp. They are fully supportive of the principles of Waldorf Education and promoting the status of the kindergarten within the community.

The follow-up project, which started in June 2017 is committed to work with the remaining 30% of parents, setting up a parent's committee and developing a professional relationship with other ECE organization in Shatila camp on child protection and non-violent, age-appropriate education. The stakeholders of promoting non-violent education and child protection are not only working in our kindergarten, but also educators working in other Early Childhood Education institutions need to be targeted, as well as the overall community in order to promote non-violent education and the healthy upbringing of the children. Therefore, the follow-up developed a strategy that aims at educating and informing the overall community about Waldorf Early Childhood Education as a way to work non-violently and as a tool for supporting traumatized children and its difference to popular and conventional ways of education.

Learning Support

Dropping out of school has become a major concern in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) manages the primary education system in the camps.



A qualitative study conducted in 2011 by the American University of Beirut identifies four main reasons for the rising percentage of school dropouts. First, although many Palestinian families seem to be willing to sacrifice a lot for their children's education, the daily struggle for survival in the Palestinian camps still appears to be their first priority in Lebanon. Second, dropouts and parents perceive that the UNRWA teachers and administrators are generally not caring when students start to fade out of the system. Third, the UNRWA schools are fragmented; some parts of the school system are either not working or do not exist. Fourth, corporal punishment and lack of extra-curricular activities are another factor that leads to early school dropouts.

By looking toward developing an intervention plan to address the high rate of early school dropouts, the study concluded that dropping out could be prevented through a focused action plan. One of the measures, providing a high quality, universal pre-school and full-day kindergarten we have already implemented with our Waldorf kindergarten project Bait al-Shams. With the Learning Support Program we aim at improving the school environment: Many students who drop out express an extreme form of unattractiveness towards and disengagement from UNRWA schools (for example: poor attendance, academic difficulties, and a poor sense of belonging combined with a general dislike for school). Therefore, effective prevention strategies must include improved counseling services, quality conditions for teaching and lifelong learning, class size reduction, and rigorous and (Palestinian student) relevant school curricula.

The program is not a completed didactic concept yet, as this would contradict our aim of developing a program, which is based on Waldorf education, but supporting the school curriculum of the UNRWA school system for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Our program started in 2017 by supporting those children who have been enrolled into our kindergarten, gradually though, and according to our capacities, we aim at opening the program to more children living in Shatila camp. Besides providing the support needed at school, safe spaces like our Bait al-Shams provide an opportunity for refugee children from Syria to begin recovering from the experience of their displacement, and to access support for their psychosocial and emotional wellbeing. Especially Palestinian children from Syria, whose families have relocated to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and are coping with their second, often third displacement, need targeted support.

BAIT AL SHAMS



December 2017: Celebration of prophet
Mohammad's birthday.

OUTCOMES

- 01 // Children are developing strong relationships with the staff, which is evident in improved confidence, and engagement with learning
- 02 // System of child observation has been developed (Child case studies, home visits)
- 03 // The educators demonstrate respectful relationships with the children which is evident in all interactions including supporting children in managing their behavior
- 04 // Children are demonstrating curiosity and resilience
- 05 // Parents are more familiar with our methodology; absorb the curriculum and follow-up with their children and their siblings at home
- 06 // Closely working with parents to establish a social link through participation in supporting their children in kindergarten and beyond
- 07 // Healthy environment
- 08 // Parents are involved and responsible
- 09 // Children are prepared for school
- 10 // Evaluation standards developed
- 11 // Child Protection Policy developed



March 2017: Commemoration of the Palestinian
Land Day, Youm al-Ard.

OUTLOOK 2018

- 01 //** Move forward with expected program put down by team and trainers
- 02 //** Advancing community work and developing an action plan
- 03 //** Developing a system of milestones to be achieved concerning the development of the children
- 04 //** Developing the best-practice approach by developing strategies for opening more kindergarten branches in the other Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon
- 05 //** Continue intensive training
- 06 //** Introducing summer activities for older children in Shatila camp
- 07 //** Strengthen the fundraising plan towards more independence from political circumstances/ visibility

CONCLUSION:

RECOGNIZE POSITIVE CHANGES

In a nutshell, despite the challenges that come with the environment we are working in, the team could look back to another successful year. The work with the children continued very well, we could recognize positive changes especially regarding social and behavioral matters within a relatively short period of time. Especially with some special cases of children, who were forced to flee from Syria, and who were in a state of shock and freeze and who gradually found their way into movement and expression. In general, children became more peaceful and at ease and started to develop trust towards their educators and the kindergarten itself. Challenges however are still being faced with the parents at times, which require a close follow-up and instruction. Nevertheless, the Parent Program had a positive impact on the involvement and care of the parents towards their children.

DONORS

UNICEF

INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
STEINER/WALDORF
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION
(IASWECE)

FREUNDE DER
ERZIEHUNGSKUNST
RUDOLF STEINERS
E.V.

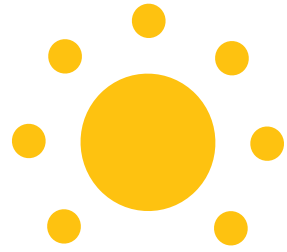
PCRF - PALESTINIAN
CHILDREN RELIEF
FUND

KINDERNOTHILFE
E.V.

BILD HILFT E.V.
"EIN HERZ FÜR
KINDER"

TAAWON
ASSOCIATION





SUCCESS STORIES



OMAR AL NAJJAR
4 YEARS OLD / BIRDS GROUP

Omar was one of the children who needed a very close supervision from the beginning. It was difficult for him to fit into his group at first, not only following his educators' lead, but also in interacting with the other children. This often resulted in some sort of violent behavior. The reliable structure and rhythm in the kindergarten however helped him to transform his energy into positive behavior. Over time he stopped hitting as a way to communicate or in conflict situations. He also changed his way of speech and became more polite and calmer in general. He doesn't have to prove himself anymore as he became part of the group and is being accepted. Omar enjoys the morning circle time and he sings along all the songs. He does listen well to his educators and he tries to collaborate with everyone.



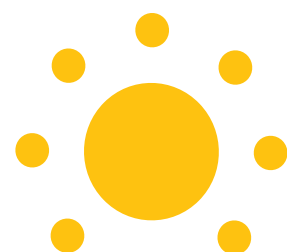
ALI AL AHMAD
5 YEARS OLD / BEES GROUP

Ali is a very physical boy who would play with his friends by boxing and wrestling and all kind of physical interaction – which was the sole way he would be able to play along with the other children in his group. He also had a major issue with expressing himself as he did have difficulties in correct pronunciation. Story-telling, singing and remembering verses by heart helped Ali a lot. He learned how to express himself by words, which helped him building up his confidence a lot. Also, he became very creative in playing and building impressive landscapes with the wooden blocks the kindergarten provides as playing material. Socially, Ali became very helpful and supportive with the other children and opened up very much for learning in the pre-school classes.



AHMAD FADI AKKILI
5 YEARS OLD / BUTTERFLY GROUP

When Ahmad entered the kindergarten he did not like it very much. He did not like to participate in any activity – he spent his time sitting in a corner of the room being unable to express what he wants or what he would like to do. He was given the time and space to get accustomed to the daily routine and ways of dealing with one another in a social entity. Ahmad is now a very joyful child who laughs a lot and learned to express everything he likes or dislikes. He draws in a very beautiful way and he builds exceptional wood houses!



BUDGET

ANNUAL BUDGET

Descriptions	Total
STAFF COSTS	122,600
OPERATIONAL/ ADMINISTRATIONAL EXPENSES	48,950
RENT	24,000
INSURANCE	11,933
GRAND TOTAL / ANNUAL BUDGET 2017	207,483

All figuers are in USD and include tax

CONTACT

Address

Germany:
just.childhood e.V.
Babendiekstr. 37
22587 Hamburg

Contact details

Phone. +49 - 40 - 866 424 52
Mobile. +49 - 170 - 5444528
Email. wiebke.eden-fleig@justchildhood.org
www.justchildhood.org

Lebanon:

just.childhood Association
Shatila Camp
Shishniyeh Building, 3rd floor
Beirut

Mobile: +961 71 965 962





WWW.JUSTCHILDHOOD.ORG

JUST.CHILDHOOD

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**



CONTACT

Address

Bait Al- Shams Kindergarten
Shishneye Building, Shatila Camp



GET INVOLVED

Direct Link : <http://www.justchildhood/get-involved>

