

International Workshop on *Early Childhood Education for Children with Special Needs*

March 3 - 20, 2014

BACKGROUND:

Ways to help close gaps and achieve greater equality in education are being sought worldwide. Educational facilities are increasingly offering a range of services that include special education within the general framework. Integration of children with special needs into the general education environment is known to reduce social stigmas and increase academic achievements for many children with special needs.

In this course, we refer specifically to children under the age of 6 with special needs. We discuss the different frameworks available and what is most appropriate for the child: integration and inclusion in regular kindergartens or attention to special education. The issue of integration and inclusion in regular educational frameworks is debated in all countries, as much because of its advantages as because of its disadvantages.

The Israeli population consists of families from many different countries whose cultural norms and values regarding childcare are varied. To answer the pluralism that exists in Israel, a wide range of programs and projects have been created that provide valuable material for analysis and comparison for children with special needs. Israel encourages and supports ongoing research in education for children with special needs and has created a range of services to answer these children's needs.

In this intensive 3 week workshop, participants experience multi-purpose programs, learn about different educational frameworks and visit different programs and projects aimed at supporting children with special needs and their families.

Participants will learn about techniques and skills used in educational facilities for children with special needs including cognitive, physical, emotional and developmental needs. Participants will also see the situation from different angles so they can create opportunities to improve the situation in their own settings and create an inclusive learning environment for all children, including those with special needs.



OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Through introductory lectures, professional study visits, observations, workshops, and discussions of applicability to local realities, participants will have:

- ✓ Discussed who is a child with special needs, the educator's role in detection and care of children with special needs and the dilemmas and challenges that are presented within educational frameworks for children with special needs
- ✓ Been introduced to special education and services provided to children with special needs
- ✓ Analyzed the role of the educator in the process of prevention, detection and treatment
- ✓ Participated in an exchange between professionals worldwide and in Israel on the issue of children under 6 who have special needs.
- ✓ Gained awareness of the interaction between teachers, principals, supervisors, paraprofessionals, parents and children within frameworks of special education
- ✓ Acquired new experiences and knowledge of organizational and methodological approaches in educational frameworks for children with special needs
- ✓ Been introduced to available resources for teachers in special education
- ✓ Visited and observed a variety of kindergartens, primary schools, pre-service and in-service teacher training facilities for children with special needs
- ✓ Discussed support systems for teachers
- ✓ Discussed supervising, monitoring and evaluating educational programs and training programs for children with special needs
- ✓ Been provided with material that leads to reflection on topics such as diversity, differences, inclusion and exclusion
- ✓ Written and presented a project proposal to be implemented in their own settings

TARGET POPULATION:

This training is open to men and women in the field of education, psychology, social work and therapy, working in the ministries of education, teacher training colleges, non-governmental organizations and educational facilities, with at least 3 years of experience.

Professionals should have knowledge and experience in the field of special education for children with special needs.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR ALL APPLICANTS INCLUDES:

Studies: Lectures, field visits, written study material and use of the library, internet and free WIFI

Room and Board: Two students per room (linen, hot water, heating/air-conditioning), all meals included and laundry facilities on the premises

Cultural And Social Activities: Excursions to historical and religious sites

Health Services: Medical insurance covers medical services and hospitalization in case of emergency. It does not cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, specific medications taken by the participant on a regular basis, dental care, eyeglasses, or the period of pregnancy. The Health Authorities recommend that visitors to Israel make sure they have been inoculated against tetanus in the last ten years.

Participants Are Responsible For All Other Expenses.

HOW TO APPLY:

You can find the application form on our website:
www.mctc.co.il

**Application forms should be sent to the Israeli Diplomatic and/or Consular Representatives serving the applicant's country. They are to be submitted no later than January 15th, 2014. An additional copy of the application must be sent to Ms. Lital Nasgi (Lital.Nasgi@mfa.gov.il) and to Director of the Workshop at MCTC, Ms. Sarah Wilner (sarah@mctc.co.il).

ABOUT MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs.

MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs.

MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

ABOUT MCTC

The Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center (MCTC) was established in 1961 to assist in the training of women engaged in community work in the newly emerging states in Africa and Asia.

Since the establishment of MCTC, some 18,000 participants from over 150 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East, Oceania and the Caribbean have attended almost 600 capacity building programs and workshops, and 27 International Conferences for Women Leaders, conducted in Israel. In addition, MCTC conducts between 20-30 institutional capacity building programs in partner countries each year, for hundreds more trainees throughout the developing world.

MCTC focuses on three areas of study: Community Development, Early Childhood Education and Organization and Management of Microenterprises, all with gender as a cross-cutting issue. In each training program there are up to 30 women and men from 10 to 27 countries. Usually two workshops are conducted concurrently in different languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian or Arabic).

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