



CHIMES ISRAEL

Improving the lives of people with disabilities
in everything they do, at every stage of life

GIVING ISRAEL'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE START IN LIFE

Through specialized therapeutic equipment & assistive technology



Giving Israel's Most Vulnerable Children the Strongest Possible Start *Through specialized therapeutic equipment and assistive technology*

For most young children, early childhood unfolds through countless small moments that shape development: taking first steps, learning to sit independently, expressing hunger or fear, joining peers in play, asking for comfort, and exploring the world with growing confidence.

For many preschoolers with disabilities, these milestones do not happen naturally or easily. A child with autism and apraxia may understand everything happening around them but remain unable to ask for food, say “Mommy,” or tell someone they feels scared.

A toddler with cerebral palsy may struggle to sit upright, participate in classroom activities, or experience independent movement. A child with sensory processing challenges may feel overwhelmed by sound, transitions, or unfamiliar environments, making participation in learning and social interaction difficult.

At Chimes Israel’s rehabilitative early childhood centers, children work every day to overcome developmental, motor, sensory, communication, emotional, and visual challenges during the most important years of brain development.

To help young children reach developmental milestones and participate more fully in the world around them, we seek support for specialized therapeutic equipment and assistive communication technology for two rehabilitative early childhood centers serving preschoolers with disabilities in Ashkelon and Tel Aviv.

These life-changing tools will help preschoolers with disabilities strengthen mobility, communication, emotional regulation, sensory processing, participation, confidence, and independence during the most critical years of development. The equipment will help some children sit independently for the first time, tolerate transitions, participate in classroom activities, or experience supported movement. For those who cannot communicate, the assistive technology will provide a voice allowing them to tell others what they need and how they feel.



Who We Are

Chimes Israel is a nonprofit organization founded in 1991 to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities from infancy through adulthood. We operate under the supervision and partial funding of Israel’s Ministries of Welfare and Health, in partnership with municipalities and local authorities across the country. Our mission is to promote dignity, independence, inclusion, and meaningful participation for people with disabilities through professional, compassionate, and innovative services.

We operate 27 centers and programs that serve more than 1,400 children and adults annually across diverse communities and all life stages. We support Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Arab, religious, secular, immigrant, and refugee populations through rehabilitative early childhood intervention, afterschool programs, vocational college, supported and sheltered employment, therapeutic adult nursing daycare, day programs for aging adults with disabilities, and mental health employment support.

Our Early Childhood Centers – A Pioneering Model

Chimes Israel was the first organization in Israel to recognize how overwhelming and isolating it can feel when parents learn that their young child has a disability. Rather than leaving families to navigate an exhausting maze of separate diagnoses, therapies, and appointments, we pioneered a comprehensive model that brings everything together under one roof.

Our rehabilitative early childhood centers provide children ages six months to three years with integrated therapeutic, developmental, educational, and emotional support in one safe, nurturing environment. In

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accordance with Israel's Rehabilitative Early Childhood Centers Law, our multidisciplinary teams provide physiotherapy, speech therapy, educational programming, social work support, parent guidance, and individualized therapeutic interventions tailored to each child's developmental, communication, emotional, sensory, and physical needs. We also support parents by providing professional guidance and emotional support. This coordinated model strengthens developmental progress during the most critical years of life while reducing stress and confusion for families.

Municipalities across Israel continue to entrust Chimes Israel with their most vulnerable young children. Today, we operate nine rehabilitative early childhood centers across eleven buildings. We recently opened a new center in Herzeliya, confirming municipality trust in Chimes Israel's professional leadership, experience, and pioneering approach.

Specialized Equipment that Help Children Grow, Communicate, and Thrive

To spend a morning at one of our centers is to understand, quickly and viscerally, how much is at stake. You see a three-year-old boy who has never taken a step, and a therapist coaxing him forward in a gait trainer, one small movement at a time. You see a little girl crying at the lunch table because she cannot tell anyone what she wants to eat. You see a boy curled in on himself, overwhelmed by sound and sensation, unable to join the circle of children around him. Then you see what happens when they have the right tools:

- A child who cannot walk finally stands upright, feeling the ground under her feet, her muscles working, her face lights up with something that can only be described as wonder.
- A child who cannot speak taps a picture on a screen and hears a voice say "more," the word she has been trying to express for months. Her teacher gives her more spaghetti, her favorite. She smiles. She did that. She was heard.
- A child feeling overwhelmed by the world is brought to a room with cushions, soft lights, and gentle vibrations and, slowly, visibly, comes back to himself. Calm. Ready. Present.



These transformations are what the right equipment and technology make possible. Children learn to sit independently, take supported steps, regulate emotions, communicate needs, tolerate transitions, participate in play, strengthen visual tracking, interact with peers, and join classroom life. For children with limited verbal communication, assistive communication technology opens an entirely new world. Through iPads, communication software, symbols, images, and voice-output systems, children who cannot say, "I'm hungry," "I'm scared," "I need help," or "I want Mommy," begin expressing needs, feelings, choices, and ideas, often for the first time in their lives.

Yosef's Story

Yosef is two and a half years old. He has autism and apraxia, a neurological condition that makes the motor planning required for speech extraordinarily difficult. Yosef is bright. He understands what is happening around him. He has thoughts, feelings, preferences, fears, and joys. For most of his young life, he has had no reliable way to let anyone know what they were.

"For a long time, every meal was filled with frustration," says Hagar Baratz, speech-language pathologist who works with Yosef at Chimes Israel's Holland Center in Tel Aviv. "He would push away his plate or cry, and we struggled to understand how to help him. You could see it in his face; he knew what he wanted. He just couldn't reach us."

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Then Hadar introduced a simple communication board, pictures and words: “more,” “bread,” “no.” One day, Yosef looked at the food cart and pointed to the picture for “more” next to a food he loved.

“It may have seemed like a small moment to others. But for Yosef, it was the first time he understood that people could hear him even without words,” said Hagar.

That single moment changed everything. Yosef became calmer. More engaged. More confident. He began to reach out rather than withdraw. He started using gestures, then pointing, then, to the joy of everyone who knew him, his first spoken words: Ima (Mommy) and Abba (Daddy).



"The more he felt heard," said Hagar, "the more he wanted to connect.

With these tools, a child can express themselves instead of crying, participate instead of withdrawing, and begin engaging with the world around them. Communication changes every part of a child’s life, their emotional regulation, their learning, their relationships, their independence,” she explained.



Our Request

To give more children the breakthrough Yosef experienced, as well as equipment that lets them move, sit alongside their peers and find the calm they need to learn, we are requesting the following:

- For our Shulamit and Shaked Centers in **Ashkelon**, gait trainers that help our children walk for the first time, standers and positioning chairs that let them join their class at eye level, and multisensory tools that help overwhelmed nervous systems find peace.
- For our Holland Rehabilitative Early Childhood Center in **Tel Aviv**, iPads and communication software. These tools that transform silence into speech, isolation into connection, and frustration into the quiet miracle of being understood.

Equipment & Technology Needs

Every item below represents a real child, their need, and an opportunity for change.

Item	Description	Image	USD
Ashkelon			
Rifton Pacer Gait Trainer	For preschoolers who cannot walk, this gait trainer makes upright movement possible and helps them experience mobility safely. Therapists adjust its supports to match each child’s physical needs, strengthening muscles, endurance, and balance while encouraging healthy weight bearing and bone development. For many, it offers the first experience of moving through the world independently.		\$7,495
Cat II Kids Front & Back Stander	This positioning system helps children with severe physical disabilities sit safely and comfortably during therapy, meals, and classroom activities. Proper alignment reduces fatigue, supports safer feeding, and improves head, trunk, and neck stability. Better positioning helps them stay engaged, comfortable, and ready to learn.		\$3,864



Giving Israel's Most Vulnerable Children the Strongest Possible Start
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Item	Description	Image	USD
Corner Chair	This chair helps children who cannot sit participate alongside classmates at eye level rather than from the sidelines. It supports posture, trunk stability, and arm positioning, helping children engage in play, classroom activities, and fine motor tasks. By making participation possible, it strengthens both learning and belonging.		\$869
Portable Snoezelen Kit	This mobile sensory therapy system helps overwhelmed children feel calm, safe, and ready to engage. Bubble lights, fiber optics, and sensory stimulation create a soothing environment that supports emotional regulation, attention, and sensory processing. Because it moves easily between rooms, therapists can use it with many children throughout the day.		\$2,311
Portable Multi-Sensory Kit	This flexible therapeutic system transforms ordinary rooms into immersive sensory environments that support relaxation, engagement, and learning. Therapists use light, movement, and sensory experiences to help children regulate emotions, improve focus, and fully participate in therapy. Its portability allows many children to benefit across settings.		\$7,313
Snoezelen Vibration Equipment	This sensory cushion allows children to feel music as gentle vibrations through their bodies, creating a calming and grounding experience. The soothing stimulation supports sensory regulation and relaxation, especially for children who struggle with restlessness or overstimulation. It helps create calm moments that make learning and interaction possible.		\$2,780
iPad (Communication Device)	For a preschooler who cannot speak, this device can become a lifeline to communication. With specialized apps, children can express needs, emotions, and choices through pictures, symbols, and voice output, reducing frustration and increasing participation in daily life. It gives children a way to connect with caregivers, therapists, and peers.		\$849
Grid 3 Communication Software	This communication software gives non-speaking children a personalized way to express themselves. Therapists adapt communication boards to each child's abilities, helping children move from simple requests to meaningful interaction and self-expression. It allows children to communicate in ways tailored to their unique strengths and needs.		\$1,246

Giving Israel's Most Vulnerable Children the Strongest Possible Start
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Item	Description	Image	USD
BlazePod Gold Kit	These interactive light pods turn therapy into movement-based play that builds motor skills, coordination, attention, and problem-solving. Therapists use games and collaborative activities to strengthen both physical and social development. The playful format motivates children to participate while building confidence and connection.		\$706
Gravity/Weighted Vest	This vest provides gentle, calming deep pressure that helps children feel more regulated and secure. It supports focus, sensory regulation, and emotional calm while allowing full freedom of movement. For children who feel overwhelmed or dysregulated, it can make participation in learning and therapy possible.		\$193
5 Stability Chairs (x5)	These specially designed chairs help toddlers sit securely and comfortably during classroom activities, meals, and therapy. Stable seating supports posture, participation, and independence while helping children feel included alongside peers. Even simple positioning support can make a meaningful difference in a child's ability to engage.		\$753
Tel Aviv			
iPad, Communication Device (x5)	These devices help non-speaking children take their first steps toward communication and independence. Children use symbols, pictures, and voice output to express needs, make choices, and participate more fully in therapy and daily routines. For many families, it is the first time they truly understand what their child is trying to say.		\$3,875
Grid 3 Communication Software (x5)	This personalized Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) software allows therapists to create communication systems tailored to each child's developmental level and abilities. Children begin with simple choices and gradually build toward richer communication, greater participation, and stronger relationships. The software advances with the child as communication skills develop.		\$5,650
TouchChat Communication App (x5)	This intuitive communication app helps children with speech disabilities express feelings, needs, and preferences in a simple, accessible way. Designed for children with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, apraxia, and related conditions, it supports communication through symbols and voice output. For many children, it is the bridge between frustration and being understood.		\$1,125

Tel Aviv Subtotal: \$10,650

GRAND TOTAL FOR BOTH CENTERS: \$39,029

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Giving Children the Strongest Possible Start in Life

A child's earliest years shape everything that follows. Those years determine the ability to communicate, build relationships, regulate emotions, learn, and participate in the world around them. For young children with disabilities, the right support during this brief and critical window can change the course of a lifetime.

With your support, young children with disabilities will gain opportunities to communicate their needs, move with greater confidence, participate more fully, and experience the joy of connection, independence, and belonging. Together, we can help Israel's most vulnerable children build the strongest possible foundation for life and ensure that disability never limits the chance to grow, learn, and thrive.

