

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL



The Weizmann International Office team would like to extend a warm welcome to all incoming International families.

We have prepared this guide to provide you with information to help you decide on the childcare arrangement that best suits your child and family.

We are here to assist you with registration and any question you have.

Please do not hesitate to contact us

via email at io@weizmann.ac.il or phone at +972 – 89343343.

Table of contents (hold Ctrl on each heading below + mouse click to follow the link)

GENERAL OVERVIEW.....	2
CHILD CARE OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 MONTHS – 4 YEARS.....	3
PRIVATE CHILD CARE OPTIONS IN REHOVOT SURROUNDING.....	6
FACEBOOK GROUPS FOR PARENTS IN REHOVOT.....	8
CHILD CARE OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 YEARS – 6 YEARS	8
SCHOOL AGES 6 YEARS - 12 YEARS.....	9
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS	11
AFTERNOON FRAMES	11
Is there anything I can do to help my child be prepared for the Israeli Preschool/school experience?	14

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

GENERAL OVERVIEW

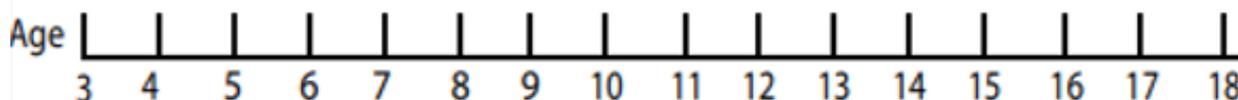
Israel requires compulsory education for all children from ages 3 years to 16 years.

Many students do two additional years of education to receive a matriculation certificate.

Hebrew is the official language taught in school, and Israeli students begin to study other languages at the age of ten.

Structure of the education system in Israel

Pre-primary education	Primary education	Secondary education	
Public kindergartens 3-6 year-olds	Primary schools (Grades 1-6, 1-9)	Lower secondary school (Grades 7-9)	Upper secondary school (Grades 9-12, 10-12)



Childcare options for children **ages 0-4 years** are private preschools, Mishpahton, nanny, babysitter and International preschools (not in Rehovot). We will elaborate in this guide about these options.

The academic year in Israel begins in early September and finishes in late June.

During July and August, there are various summer day camps available. Weizmann also operates a summer camp in Weizmann premises for ages 4-10. An email with all information about the summer camp and the registration is sent to all Weizmann members around June every year.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

CHILD CARE OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 MONTHS – 4 YEARS

A private Preschool – “Gan Prati” (3 months – 4 years)

Hours of operation: on weekdays usually 7:00 / 7:30 – 16:00/ 17:00 and Fridays until 12:00/13:00.

Prices: The price per month for a private preschool is determined by the owners of the preschool, usually according to demand and prices in the area. The price ranges from NIS 2,800 to NIS 4,000.

Number of caregivers in relation to children: For children aged 3 months to 2 years in a private preschool: Usually one nurse for every three or four babies.

The ratio between a nanny and children aged two to four will usually be one for every six or seven children. The ratio between a nanny and children aged four to six will be in most places one in ten children.

Structure: Usually a private building with a yard

Contents: Educational and pedagogical: seasons, holidays, annual topics. In the private preschools there are also activities for children, such as movement, music, and more.

Supervision: The Ministry of Labor supervises the day care that are listed in the following link <https://apps.moital.gov.il/Daycare/FramesSearch/> you need to choose (day care) מעון in the search and (Rehovot) רחובות in the city and use google translate.

MISHPAHTON (Usually 3 months - 2 years)

Hours of operation: Usually the hours range from 7:00 to 17:00.

Cost: The price per month ranges from 2500 NIS to 4000 NIS.

Number of caregivers in relation to children: Determined by the head of the place. There is no supervision, and therefore there is no recommendation in the regulations or in the law.

Structure: In most cases, the place will be in a private home.

Contents: For ages of three months to a year, the activity will be mainly games and motor activities, playing music and songs, reading stories and more. The activities for the ages of one or two years will deal mainly with motor, movement, music and creativity.

Supervision: there are Mishpahtons that the Ministry of labor welfare and social services supervise – they are not many, and you can find a list of the ones in Rehovot here:

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

<https://apps.moital.gov.il/Daycare/FramesSearch/> you need to choose (Mishpahton) משפחתון in the search and (Rehovot) רחובות in the city and use google translate.

What is important to know and check? It is important to check that the place is suitable for the needs of babies and toddlers and make sure that it is clean and protected, to check the subject of nutrition (whether food is prepared or brought from outside) and sleep conditions. It is also important to check that even if the family is in an apartment or home without a garden, the caregiver takes the children out for a walk (when the weather allows, of course). It is also important to check that there is an emergency exit, a safe room and a fire extinguisher, and you should also check with other parents about the treatment of children and the family

On campus Preschool – WIZO (5 months – 3.8 years)

Please find information in the following link: <http://www.weizmann.ac.il/Gan/english-0>

To check if there is an available spot in the middle of the year, email Shelly at:

shelly.levhar@weizmann.ac.il

Nanny (1months – 3years)

- Firstly, in **order** to prevent confusion, you should sign a contract (see **an example contract** at the attachments of this guide) because if the intended nanny comes to your home, it is considered to be hiring and therefore the terms of the employment should be clear.

In the contract you can decide on working hours, hourly wages, overtime wages if there are, vacation pay and more.

Before drafting the contract, it is important that you know that the caregiver working in your home will receive all the rights of an employee. Therefore, all her rights must be legally granted.

- A Nanny is entitled to severance pay if she has been employed by you for a period exceeding 12 months. You will be required to pay her compensation even if you fired her because the little one is already grown and wants to go to preschool. The amount of compensation will be one month's salary for each working year.
- If the nanny works part-time or at hourly rates she is still entitled to compensation for a month's work, but relatively. Usually, the calculation is based on the average salary she received in the three months prior to dismissal.

If payments are made to a pension fund, the compensation will be paid through its compensation fund, with the balance, if any, paid by you.

On the contrary: If the caregiver resigns from her initiative, you are not obligated to pay severance pay.

- A nanny is entitled to receive a recovery fee. She is entitled to the recovery allowance if employed over a year.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

- In case the nanny is sick you would have to pay her according to the rights of employees. Therefore, on the first day of her illness, the caregiver will not receive a payment even if she brought a medical certificate. On the second and third days she will receive 35% of her daily salary and for the fourth day onwards, the caregiver will receive 75% of her daily salary. When only a total of 18 sick leave per year is eligible.

By law, the nanny is entitled to the first two years of her work for 10 days off each year. In the next two years, she is entitled to 12 days off, and in the sixth, seventh and eighth years she is entitled to 17 days off per year.

Also, if she is interested she may accumulate her vacation days and exercise them at another time, as coordinated with you of course.

And, on the other hand, you may take the caregiver for a concentrated vacation at your convenience, if you wish to go on vacation and the like, and of course everything is by prior consent and coordination, and with the caregiver's consideration.

- Once the nanny stays over 8 hours with your children, she is eligible for overtime pay. You will need to agree on the rate at the time of employment.
- You are required to report to Social Security the employment of the caregiver and pay her Social Security and Health Insurance contributions every month duly; And all this within two weeks of her employment. Social Security also protects you as employers, and will avoid an unpleasant claim if the caregiver is injured during her work. In such a case, compensation will be paid to her from the National Insurance Institute.

It is useful to find out on the Social Security website about the way of reporting and payment so as not to fall between the chairs and not linger unlawfully in the payment.

- Price: Usually, the nanny offers hourly or monthly wages and then there is an opening for negotiation. But remember, in any case you must pay a fair payment that does not fall below the minimum wage enshrined in the law. It is the duty of every employer to pay an employee equal pay or exceeding the minimum wage. Also, the monthly payment should be paid from the end of the working month and not later than the ninth of the month following.
- If the nanny takes a bus to work, even if for a short trip, you are obliged to pay a travel fee at the cost of the bus or free monthly ticket and usually the cheapest between them. You may also agree with the nanny that the travel refunds will be included in the monthly salary or paid separately and all subject to agreement and consideration of course. Please see the following link of Bituah Leumi website with all details about hiring a nanny in Israel.

<https://www.btl.gov.il/English%20Homepage/Insurance/National%20Insurance/Detailsoftypes/domesticworkers/Pages/Whoisconsidered.aspx>

We have a contact person in Bituah Leumi and we will assist you with registering the nanny there if required.

- **IMPORTANT** - If you agree that the nanny will take care of your child at her home, then it is not considered hiring an employee but an independent or freelance. Therefore, all of the above is not applicable. You do not have to pay her severance, restitution, vacation and travel and other social rights. Also, the social security reporting obligation applies only to her and not to you.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

PRIVATE CHILD CARE OPTIONS IN REHOVOT SURROUNDING

Care Type	Name of Care	Relevant age	Telephone	Address
Private preschool	Arnavon	8 months to 3.5 years	052-8461199 (Racheli), 077-5051521, Avishag 054-6621929	Gordon 3, Rehovot
Private preschool	Hevruta	3 months-3 years	08-930-0224	Ben Gurion St 4, NesZiona
Private preschool	Smart Gan - Rinat	3 months to 3 years	050-3623625	9 Bilu Street, Rehovot
Private preschool	Gan Katar - parents run the preschool	1 year - 3 years	052-6733844 - Michal (one of the parents)	Harav David Israel 2(near Rehovot mall)
Private preschool	Ira	1 year - 3 years	054-8022889	Bareket 45, Rehovot
Private preschool	Katya	9 months - 3 years	052-6373583	Miller 2, Rehovot
Private preschool	Hagan Hahoev	3 months - 4 years	08-6226615, 054-5861311	Gluskin 6, Rehovot
Private preschool	Bereshit	4 months - 3 years	050-4548333, 052-8946661	Hankin 20, Rehovot
Private preschool	Gan Shelanu – Waldorf Style –	1-4 yaers	052-8958474 or 054-4622832, see also https://tomasfly.wixsite.com/ourgan/	Beerli st. 68, Rehovot - run by parents
Private preschool	Halomotaf - Hadar	5 months- 3 years	054-7906060, 08-9464144	Hacarmel 37, Rehovot
Private preschool	Gan Kmo Bakibbutz	4 months - 3 years	08-9401749	Nordau Street 32, Ness Ziona
Private preschool	Tapuzim	1 year - 3 years	054-2896214	Yaakov 14, Rehovot
Private preschool	Hapinukiya Shel Ziva	3 months - 3 years	052-4288604	Shabazi 22, Rehovot
Private preschool	Gan Balagan	1 year - 4 years	050-9405295 Naama	Kfar Aharon
Private preschool	Gan Shifra	1.5 years - 3 years	0524288604	HaAri Street 22, Rehovot
Private preschool	Shibolim – Tehila	4 months - 3 years	052-7127506, 055-2709192	Binyamin 3, Rehovot

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

Care Type	Name of Care	Relevant age	Telephone	Address
Mishpachton	Avivit Rabi	3 month - 1 year	050-6559936	Avraham Herhsko, Shcunat HaMada
Mishpachton	The English Garden	1 year - 3 years	054-5284358	Tsipora Tov 5, Rehovot
Mishpachton	Ruhama	3 months - 3 years	053-5318874	Hamaapil, Rehovot
Mishpachton	Sonya	1 year - 4 years	0526121416	Yaakov Hilel 4, Rehovot
Mishpachton	Karin	3 month - 1 year	0543946223	Weizmann 39, Rehovot
Mishpachton	Eti	2 months - 2 years	050-4424800	Mendeli Mocher sfarim 4/7
Mishpachton	Rinat	4 months - 8 months	054-5218875	Neve Alon 15, Rehovot
Nanny	Yafa Eden	4 months - 1 years	050-3098999	Shabazi 25
Nanny	Sara Ben Nun	0 year - 3 years	050-5681366	Epharim Kazir 24
Nanny	Dalia	flexible 3 months - 5 years	054-4917913	Hana Avrech 31
Nanny	Aviva Hezi	3 months - 1 year	050-8743910	Rozovsky 12/5
Nanny	Lora Rubin	3 months - 1 year	05027357735	Gluskin street
Nanny	Tamara Svardalov	1 year - 4 years	0504220642	At the child's home, or at her place's in Bnei Moshe street (near Rehovot's mall)
Nanny	Irit Zvili	all ages, all situations - application for all mothers	0546517767	www.uma.mom
Nanny	Eti Tam	3 months - 1 year	0543974895	Sapir, Rehovot
Nanny	Tzvia	3 months - 3 years	052-8504834	Berman 2/10
Babysitter	Ariel Olti	from 1 year old	053-2860728	Gordon 43, Rehovot
Babysitter	Noa Sarig	1 year - 4 years	543555851	At the family home

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

FACEBOOK GROUPS FOR PARENTS IN REHOVOT

You can search there for private preschools, mishpahtons, nannies or babysitters:

1. אמהות, מטפלות ועוזרות רחובות
2. בייביסיטר רחובות
3. בייבי רחובות אמהות ותינוקות רחובות והסביבה
4. בייבי רחובות והורי ילדי רחובות והסביבה
5. מטפלות/ גננות לילדים דרושות ודורשות 😊

CHILD CARE OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 YEARS – 6 YEARS

Municipality preschool - Gan Ironi (3 years to 6 years)

- ages 3-4 (Trom-Trom Hova or Tat Hova)
- ages 4-5 (Trom Hova)
- ages 5-6 (Hova) - Compulsory

Opening hours: Sun – Thu 7:30-14:00, Friday 7:30 – 13:00

What is the Gan calendar?

Gan follows the same calendar as schools. School begins on September 1st and ends on June 31st. This is regardless of the day of the week. If September 1st is on a Friday, Gan (and school) will begin on Friday. There is usually a three-day gradual introduction to Gan for three and four-year-olds. On the first day, expect to pick your child up at 10, and on the second day at 11. The full day usually begins on the 3rd day. Kindergarten is a full day from day one

Prices: The preschools are under the Free Education law - therefore there is no charge for these hours, except one-time payments for insurance, and up to the kindergarten and classes, which vary according to the parents' decision.

Number of caregivers with regard to children: The ratio in kindergartens in most of the authorities is preschool teacher and assistant to 30-35 children.

Structure: Buildings designated for this purpose by the local authority. The planning and building process requires the approval of the Ministry of Education Which finances the Construction and grants the operating license to the kindergarten.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

Contents: Hebrew calendar, holidays and tradition, language skills, music, life skills (education for personal safety and road safety), health education and physical education, mathematics and science.

Supervision: the municipality's education department, the education department and the preschool department

What is important to know and check? Do you have to bring the child to kindergarten only after weaning or not? What is the treatment of the staff for detoxification, an agenda, nutrition, whether there is a security guard at the entrance to the kindergarten, what facilities are there in the yard? Are there small toilets, where do we sleep at noon, and what preparation is there for first grade.

SCHOOL AGES 6 YEARS - 12 YEARS

Schools in Israel operate Sunday through Friday from 8:00 until 13:30, some days until 14:30, 6 days a week (Fridays is a shorter day – usually until 11.45)

During July and August, there are various summer day camps available. Weizmann also operates a summer camp in Weizmann premises for ages 4-10. An email with all information about the summer camp and the registration is sent to all Weizmann members around June every year.

SCHOOLS IN REHOVOT

All of the schools in Rehovot are public schools, operated under the local municipality.

Formal registration at the municipality is generally open in January each year for the academic year beginning the following September.

Once registered, the registrations for the following years done by the municipality automatically.

Note that it is possible to register at any time throughout the year, but you will then only be allocated a school place based on availability and this could mean that the school be further away from your house, etc.

DRESS GUIDELINES

You will need to purchase suitable clothes (t-shirts & sweatshirts with the school's logo), and a supply of white t-shirts – they are worn every Friday and for ceremonies & holidays. During the week, any colour is permitted.

For Sports lessons, all colours of t-shirt are permitted, but the children must wear sports shoes and shorts.

The school does not allow crocs or flip-flops at all.

BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Some schools operate a book-lending scheme to the students. However, this is not available in all schools.

Many of the bookstores also offer used schoolbooks for sale that can significantly reduce the total cost.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

Generally, the cost for books in the higher grades is greater than in the lower grades.

The approximate cost of new books ranges from 300-700 NIS depending on the grade level and the school.

It is required to register to the book lending scheme and complete the payment before the year starts, if you abroad and will not be able to complete this step our office will request the school to hold books for you and complete the payment after your arrival.

MOBILE PHONE

Any use of technology in general and a mobile phone in particular is prohibited during the school day.

It is recommended not to bring any mobile devices to school. In any case of bringing a device, it should stay in the bag when it is closed and off. The school is not responsible for the damage caused to it.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (CHUGIM)

Many children participate in at least one, if not several, after school group activities that include: sports, dance, art, Torah enrichment, martial arts, scouting, and many others.

The average monthly cost for a 1-hour weekly activity ranges between 80-150 NIS.

Private music lessons range between 75-150 NIS per hour.

You can consult with parents in the WhatsApp group you will be added to after your arrival for recommendations.

PRIVATE TUTORS

Fees range from 80-150 NIS per hour depending on the subject, grade level and professional qualifications of the tutor.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ALTERNATIVES

DEMOCRATIC (Open) SCHOOL

Hashita – Tel: 08-935-7799

Website: <http://www.hashita.co.il/>

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/5WgnrTNFtd62>

It offers an alternative educational strategy and is an open and democratic school. For some families it is perfect and just what they want, and for others it is not even an option.

There is absolutely no academic pressure at this school, the kids can enter and leave the classes as they wish. It is located at the opposite end of Rehovot from the Institute (no transport provided).

For children who are in Israel for a Sabbatical this can be a gift. (We had a family like this, that is was a life saver for their son in the 4th grade, so I always share this option.)

Note that this is an extremely popular educational option which you should register for early if this is the style of experience that you would like to offer your kids.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Note that they are NOT located in Rehovot and our office does not assist with registration to these schools.

Link with information about International schools in Israel: <https://www.expats-quotes.com/guides/israel/education/international-schools-in-israel.htm>

AFTERNOON FRAMES

AFTERNOON FRAMES - GENERAL OVERVIEW

A zaharon is an optional afternoon program run by private companies whose main goal is to supervise the children, to relieve parents employed after the preschool/school ends.

This framework is designated for children in ages 3-9 years

The zhaharon is also active during the vacations of the education system and after the preschool/school period is over - during July and beginning of August.

The target population of the Zhaharon are children of kindergarten age (who do not stay in a daycare center with a long school day) and children of the lower grades of primary school who are too young to return from school unattended and stay at home without adult supervision.

The Zhaharon provides children warm lunch and sometimes other meals (snack, breakfast during full days on vacations and summer).

Hours of operation: Once preschool/school is over until 17:00;

During vacations: 7:30/8:00 - 17:00/16:00

Prices: range from 700 to 1500 shekels;

Number of caregivers with regard to children: Two caregivers for 30-35 children.

Structure: The preschool/school itself/ private house or apartment

Contents: There are usually 2 art/sport classes per week. Mostly serves as "babysitter".

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

AFTERNOON PROGRAM AT THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE'S

The after-school program at Weizmann 36 children from pre-kindergarten up to and including second grade.

The registration usually starts in February every year.

Teaching staff: A kindergarten teacher + two staff members.

Hours of activity:

- Sun-Thu - From the end of the school day to 5 pm.
- During education system holidays – 8 am to 5 pm.

Monthly fees: Approximately NIS 1,500 including transportation costs (an estimated cost, the final cost will be updated at a later date).

The monthly payment includes:

- Lunch – a hot and nutritious meal, cooked daily in the on-site kitchen.
- Enrichment classes – two per week.
- Transportation – the pick-up stations will be determined according to the number of registrants, and will be located in kindergartens where there are at least four children and in schools where there are at least six children.
Independent transportation to the after-school program is allowed, in which case transportation costs will be deducted from the tuition fees.
- Acceptance notices will be made during the month of June 2020, in accordance with the municipality's schedule for kindergarten placement.
- Parents who wish to remove their child from the after-school program during the school year for any reason will be required to bear the full tuition fee for the remainder of the period. In the event that another child (from the waiting list) is found who will enter the program, the leaving child's parents will be exempt from paying the tuition fees, as of the time the new child enters the program.
- any event of a child leaving the program during the year, which is not specified in advance at the time of registration, will incur the payment of a fine in the amount of one month's tuition fee, even if another child from the waiting list replaces the leaving child.
- Contact person for registration and availability : Shelly Levhar: shelly.levhar@weizmann.ac.il

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

AFTERNOON FRAMES OPTIONS IN REHOVOT

The registration usually starts in April and continues until end of July. For Israeli ID holders the registration is done online, if you don't hold an Israeli ID and would like to register please contact our office at io@weizmann.ac.il and we will guide you.

Preschools

1. "Havayot" company: usually held in the preschool or a preschool nearby - <https://www.havayot.org.il/>
2. Private Zhaharon: usually held in apartments
3. Weizmann afternoon program

Schools

1. "HaHevra Haeironit" company in schools - <https://www.ironit-rehovot.co.il/>
2. Private Zhaharon: usually held in apartments
3. Weizmann afternoon program

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL

Is there anything I can do to help my child be prepared for the Israeli Preschool/school experience?

Here are few ideas that can help make the transition easier:

1. Set up play-dates with other children
2. Listen to Hebrew songs with your children on youtube. A good series is “Meah Shirim Rishonim.” having them on in the background will make the songs familiar.
3. Learn basic preschool vocabulary with your child. A book that is highly recommend is: The First Thousand Words in Hebrew, which can be purchased at Amazon.com. Go through the pages with your child and play a game identifying the Hebrew and English words. (It's not bad for English vocabulary development either.) For preschool preparation, start with the pages called: Toy Store, the Park, and Beit Hasefer (at school). But actually there are great potentially useful vocabulary words on every page. This activity works with any attractive Hebrew/English children's dictionary.

While the above suggestions can ease your child's transition, keep in mind that most young children adapt easier to new experiences and environments than their parents and do not need any formal preparation. The first few days in any new environment are sometimes difficult, but most young children will quickly be running into their new Gan in the morning with a smile on their faces.