

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE IN ISRAEL



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

This guide was compiled to provide information about childcare in Israel, and help you choose the 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: io@weizmann.ac.il or phone: +972-8-9344145.

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

The state of Israel offers free education from ages three to 18.

From age three, children may enter public preschools and it is obligatory that they attend preschool for the year before grade 1 (age 5-6).

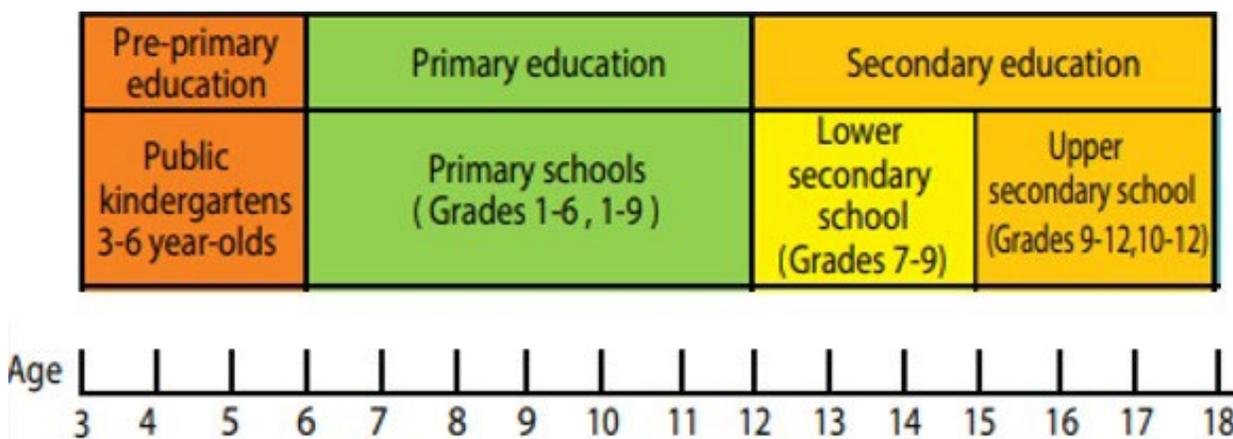
The school day in Israel may be shorter than what you are used to. Preschools usually operate from 07:30-14:00. School generally starts at 08:00 and, depending on the grade, until 13:30 or later. Afternoon programs, called zaharon, include lunch and can extend the day until 17:00.

Hebrew is the official language taught in school; English is taught from third grade.

The academic year in Israel starts in early September and ends in late June.

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

Structure of the education system in Israel



Childcare options for children **ages 0-4 years** are private preschools, mishpahtons (preschools in private homes), nannies and babysitters. We will elaborate about these options in this guide.

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CHILDCARE OPTIONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 MONTHS–4 YEARS

Private Preschool – “Gan Prati” (3 month – 4 years)

Opening Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7:00/7:30 – 16:00/17:00 and Fridays until 12:00/13:00.

Cost: The preschool manager decides the monthly cost, according to demand and prices in the area. The cost ranges from 2800 to 4000 NIS per month.

Child-to-staff ratio (usually): Three months to two years: one staff member per three or four children. Two to four years: one staff member per six or seven children. Four to six years: one staff member per ten children.

Place: Usually a private building with a yard.

Educational and pedagogical program: For babies, the activities focus on games and motor activities, playing music and songs, reading stories and more. The activities for toddlers focus on motor skills, art, language, movement, music, and creativity. Older children will also learn about nature, science, seasons, holidays, annual topics and acquire pre-reading and math skills.

Supervision: The Ministry of Labor supervises the daycares listed in the following link:

<https://apps.moital.gov.il/Daycare/FramesSearch>. You need to choose (Private preschool) מעון in the search and (Rehovot) רחובות in the city search (under ישוב). Then use google translate.

Mishpahton (preschools in private homes: Usually 3 months - 2 years)

Opening Hours: Sunday-Thursday 7:00/7:30 to 16:00/17:00, and Fridays until 12:00/13:00.

Cost: The monthly cost ranges from 2500 to 4000 NIS.

Child-to-staff ratio: Decided by the manager. Since there is usually no state supervision, there are no regulations.

Place: Most mishpahtons are held in private homes.

Educational and pedagogical program: For babies, the activities focus on games and motor activities, playing music and songs, reading stories and more. The activities for toddlers focus on motor skills, art, language, movement, music, and creativity.

Supervision: Most mishpahtons are not under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor. You can find a list of the supervised ones in Rehovot here:

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

On campus Preschool – WIZO (5 months–4 years)

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

To check if there is an available spot, email Shelly at: shelly.levhar@weizmann.ac.il.

Nannies (3 months – 3years)

When hiring a private nanny, it is highly recommended to sign a detailed contract. If a nanny comes to your home, she is considered your employee, and is entitled to all the legal rights of an employee. The contract should clearly indicate working hours, hourly wages, overtime wages, vacation pay and more.

A nanny's legal rights include:

- **Salary:** Nannies are paid hourly or monthly wages. It is illegal to pay less than the minimum wage.
- **Travel Fees:** If the nanny takes a bus to work, you are obliged to pay travel fees: either the cost of a daily bus ticket or a monthly ticket - the cheaper option.
- **Social Security:** You are required to report to Social Security (Bituach Leumi) about the employment of a nanny and pay her Social Security and health insurance contributions every month; this must be done within two weeks of her employment.
For further information about the method of reporting and payment, please refer to the Social Security website. Not reporting and/or paying Social Security for your nanny is illegal.
- **Pension:** In accordance with Israeli law, you will be required to pay into your nanny's pension scheme.
- **Sick Days:** Nannies are entitled to sick days in accordance with Israeli law: no payment for the first day, 50% of their daily salary for the second and third days, and 100% from the fourth day onwards.
- **Vacation Days:** Nannies are entitled to paid vacation days in accordance with Israeli law. They may accumulate their vacation days and take them at another time, coordinated with the employer.
- **Overtime Pay:** After 8 hours the nanny is eligible for overtime pay.
- **Severance Pay:** A Nanny is entitled to severance pay if she has been employed for a period exceeding 12 months. You will be required to pay her compensation even if you fired her because your child is already grown and going 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

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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.

- **Convalescence Pay:** A nanny employed over a year is entitled to receive convalescence pay.

For further information on hiring a nanny in Israel, Please see the Bituach Leumi (Social Security) website:

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

We have a contact at Bituach Leumi and can assist you with registering a nanny there if required.

IMPORTANT - If the nanny takes care of your child at her home, then she is not considered your employee; she is self-employed. Therefore, all the above is not applicable. You do not have to pay her severance, vacation, travel, and other social rights. Also, the social security reporting obligation applies only to her and not to you.

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PRIVATE CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN THE REHOVOT AREA

Childcare Type	Name of Childcare	Relevant age	Telephone	Address
Private preschool	Arnavon	3.5 months to 3.5 years	Avishag 054-6621929	Gordon 3, Rehovot
Private preschool	Hevruta	3 months-3 years	050-9202233	Ben Gurion 4, Ness Ziona
Private preschool	Smart Gan	3 months to 3 years	Rinat 050-3623625	Bilu 9, Rehovot
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)	2-6 years	054-2861050 or 054-5751590 also https://tomasfly.wixsite.com/	Beeri 68, Rehovot
Private preschool	Halomotaf	3 months- 3 years	Mirit 08-9464144, 050-7526282	Hacarmel 37, Rehovot
Private preschool	Gan Kmo Bakibbutz	4 months - 3 years	08-9401749	Nordau 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 - 3 years	Naama 050-9405295	Kfar Aharon, Ness Ziona
Private preschool	Shibolim	4 months - 3 years	Tehila 055-2709192	Binyamin 5, Rehovot

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Childcare Type	Name of Childcare	Relevant age	Telephone	Address
Mishpahton	Avivit Rabi	3 month - 1 year	050-6559936	Avraham Herhsko, Rehovot
Mishpahton	The English Garden	1 year-3 years	054-5284358	Tsipora Tov 7, Rehovot
Mishpahton	Ruhama	3 months-3 years	053-5318874	Hamaapil 9, Rehovot
Mishpahton	Sonya	1 year-3 years	052-6121416	Yaakov Hilel 4, Rehovot
Mishpahton	Karin	3 months-1 year	054-3946223	Weizmann 39, Rehovot
Mishpahton	Eti	3-18 months	050-4424800	Mendeli Mocher Sfarim 4/7, Rehovot
Mishpahton	Mishpahton Keshet	6 months-3 years	054-9068566	Hanna Avrech 17, Rehovot
Nanny	Lora Rubin	3 months-1 year	052-7357735	At the child's home
Nanny	Sara Ben Nun	3 months-3 years	050-5681366	At the child's home
Nanny	Aviva Hezi	3 months-1 year	050-8743910	At the child's home
Nanny	Tzvia	3 months-3 years	052-8504834	At the child's home
Nanny	Tamara Svardalov	4 months-2 years	050-4220642	At the child's home
Nanny	Idit Almagor	Up to 1 year	058-442-0140	At the child's home
Nanny	Irit Zvili	all ages, all situations - website for moms	054-6517767	www.uma.mom
Babysitter	Ariel Olti		053-2860728	At the child's home
Babysitter	Noa Sarig		054-3555851	At the child's home

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FACEBOOK GROUPS FOR PARENTS IN REHOVOT

You can search these for private preschools, mishpahtons, nannies or babysitters (use google translate)

1. אימהות, מטפלות ועוזרות רחובות - Rehovot moms and nannies
2. בייביסיטר רחובות - Rehovot babysitters
3. בייבי רחובות אמהות ותינוקות רחובות והסביבה - Rehovot moms and babies
4. בייבי רחובות והורי ילדי רחובות והסביבה - Rehovot parents and babies
5. מטפלות/ גננות לילדים דרושות ודורשות - Nannies and preschool teachers

CHILDCARE OPTIONS FOR AGES 3–6 YEARS

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

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

Opening hours: Sunday-Thursday 7:30-14:00, Friday 7:30–12:45

Gan calendar Gan follows the same calendar as schools: starting in early September and ending in late June. There is a three-day gradual introduction to preschool 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 third day is a full day. Preschool for five-year-olds is a full day from day one.

Cost: Preschools are under the Free Education law - therefore there is no charge for these hours, except one-time payments for insurance, extracurricular activities, trips, and parties – totaling in a few hundred NIS per year. Some preschools have separate payments for breakfast.

Child-to-staff ratio: The ratio is one preschool teacher and an assistant per 30-35 children. Preschools for three and four-year-olds usually have two assistants.

Place: 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.

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Educational and pedagogical program: language skills, music, life skills (personal safety and road safety), health education and physical education, mathematics, science, preparation for first grade, Jewish calendar, holidays and tradition.

Supervision: The local municipality and ministry of education.

Allocation: Allocation is based on availability and proximity to your home address.

Registration: IMPORTANT: The International office assists with registration, which starts in January for the following school year. **Preschool registration must be done for every school year.** Note that it is possible to register at any time throughout the year, but you will then only be allocated a place based on availability and this could mean that the preschool will be further away from your home.

SCHOOL: AGES 6-18 YEARS

Schools in Israel operate six days a week: Sunday through Thursday from 8:00 until 13:30, some days until 14:30. Friday is a shorter day – usually until 11:45.

SCHOOLS IN REHOVOT

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

Allocation: Allocation is based on availability and proximity to your home address.

Registration: IMPORTANT: The International office assists with registration, which starts in January for the following school year.

Once registered to school, the registration for the following years is done automatically by the municipality. You only need to register for first grade, and then again when the child goes to a new school in seventh grade (junior high) and again in ninth or tenth grade (high school).

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

DRESS GUIDELINES

You will need to buy uniforms (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 color is permitted. For sports lessons the children must wear sports shoes. Crocs and flip-flops are not allowed at all.

BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Schools operate a book-lending scheme (most parents choose this option). Many local bookstores sell secondhand schoolbooks.

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The approximate cost of new books ranges from 300-700 NIS, depending on the grade and the school. If you want to join the book lending scheme, you must register and complete the payment before the year starts. If you are abroad and will not be able to complete this step beforehand, please let us know, and our office will request the school to save books for you and complete the payment after your arrival.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are prohibited at schools. It is recommended not to bring them to school at all. If your child brings a phone, it should remain turned off, inside their bag. The school will not be responsible for damage or theft.

AFTER-SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CHUGIM)

Israeli children are very involved in extracurricular activities. Activities are usually conducted in Hebrew, although some instructors may speak English, and run for the duration of the school year, from early September to late June. Some classes may continue in July.

Activities include sports, dance, art, martial arts, chess, and many others.

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>

This school offers an alternative educational strategy. There is no academic pressure and the children can enter and leave the classes as they wish. It is located at the opposite end of Rehovot from the Institute (no transportation provided).

Note that this is an extremely popular option, so you should register early if this is the style of experience that you would like to offer to your children.

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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 CHILDCARE

AFTERNOON PROGRAMS - GENERAL OVERVIEW

A zaharon is an optional afternoon program run by private companies, for children aged 3-9 years. zaharons are also active during school vacations, and serve a hot lunch.

Opening Hours: Once preschool/school is over until 17:00; During vacations: 7:30/8:00-16:00/17:00.

Cost: approx. 900-1600 NIS per month.

Child-to-staff ratio: Two staff members per 30-35 children.

Place: At the preschool/school or at a private home or building.

Educational and pedagogical program: zaharons mainly serve as a babysitter, but there are usually two arts/sports classes per week, and the children are helped with their homework.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM AT WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

The afternoon program at Weizmann accepts children from preschool up to and including second grade (ages 4-8).

Registration opens in January for the following year. All Weizmann members receive an email with a registration link. Make sure not to miss registration because this program has limited places and is in high demand.

Opening Hours: Sunday-Thursday - From the end of the school day to 17:00.

During school holidays – 8:00-17:00.

Cost: Approximately 1600 NIS including transportation costs.

Transportation: Transportation from preschool/school to Weizmann's afterschool program will be available only if there are more than four children attending from the same preschool and more than six children from schools.

Contact person for registration and availability: Shelly Levhar: shelly.levhar@weizmann.ac.il

For further information: <https://www.weizmann.ac.il/gan/en/our-daycares/silva-anixter-family-aftercare-program>

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REHOVOT MUNICIPALITY AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

Registration for afternoon programs opens in April and continues until the end of July.

For registration assistance, please contact our office at io@weizmann.ac.il.

Opening Hours: Sunday-Thursday - From the end of the school day to 17:00.

During school holidays – 8:00-16:00/17:00.

Monthly fees: Approximately 1000 NIS.

Preschools:

Havayot company (held at the preschool or at a nearby preschool):

Website: <https://www.havayot.org.il>

Email: tzaharonim@havayot.org.il

Telephone: 08-6616371

Schools (first to third grade):

Hachevra Ha-ironit company (held at the school):

Website: <https://www.ironit-rehovot.co.il/>

Email: mazkirut@ironitr.co.il

Telephone: 08-6683870

PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDCARE OPTIONS IN ISRAEL **HELPING YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR ISRAELI SCHOOL/PRESCHOOL**

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

- Start by helping your children understand the structure of the day at preschool/school.
- Share with your children that you are going through the process together. If you are learning Hebrew, let them know and let them watch you working on your language skills as well - it's helpful for them to see that you are also new and struggling.
- Try not to pressure your children too much in the first year. Help them gain confidence by focusing on their successes during the year. Be positive and encouraging. Encourage your children along the way and point out that they are making amazing progress.
- Encourage your children to hang out with Hebrew speaking kids as well as kids who speak their native language.
- Don't hesitate to call the caretaker/teacher or our office if you are having a problem. You need to advocate for yourself and your family and we can assist.
- Set up play dates with other children.
- 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.
- Learn basic preschool vocabulary with your child. A book highly recommended is: The First Thousand Words in Hebrew, which can be purchased on Amazon.com. For preschool preparation, start with the pages called: Toy Store, the Park, and Beit Hasefer (at school). This activity works with any Hebrew/English children's dictionary.

While the above suggestions can ease your child's transition, keep in mind that most young children adapt to new experiences and environments easier and faster 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 preschool with a smile on their faces.