

The Palestinian Child Institute
An-Najah National University
Nablus Palestine
Strategy 2019- 2022

Background:

The Palestinian Institute For Childhood was established in 2014 for the aim to develop diagnosis and rehabilitation services for children with neuro-developmental disorders such as ASD, ADHD, L.D, and other disorders. The institute works currently on developing a holistic strategy as a key player in the field of ECD at the national level.

With its vision to expand its mandate and scope of work to the national level on the frame of this strategy, the Institute will work in partnership with the University entity and national and international partners in the area of ECD through the following strategic domains:

- 1- **Service provision**, which consists three major sections: diagnostic services through clinics, Rehabilitation Classes and Montessori Kindergarten. All sections work in complementarity to support the inclusion for the children into the educational system and community.

A- Clinics section includes:

Occupational therapy,
Speech therapy ,
Special Education,
and Clinical psychology .

B- Rehabilitation Classes Section aims to with autistic children in ages between 3 to 6 years old. Its equipped with all necessary means to develop the skills of children that make them ready for inclusion (academic inclusion , vocational inclusion , or social inclusion).

The classes in the section divided depending on the children abilities which ranging from low, moderate to high level of functionality in ADLs ,pre-academic skills , and

cognitive abilities.

There are two basic systems that used inside the classes which are TEACHH and PECS systems , also every child has his/her own Individual Educational Plan (IEP) which contains the goals that the child and his parent should work to achieve them in limited time which usually be six months and during this sixth months there is regular meetings with the parents and staff to discuss the progress of the children or the challenges that the parents face when there dealing with there children and how to manage . And that relate to our believe of the importance of the parents role in the rehabilitation process of their children and their progress .

Beside classes every child has his own schedule for individual sessions which are occupational therapy, speech therapy, and special education sessions forming elements of an integrated treatment plan.

Sensory integration has an active and important role in intervention with children who have ASD, so sensory room it's a room which Equipped with special tools to develop the senses of the children and its interactive environment which help children to develop their cognitive , communication , and motor skills .

C- Montessori Kindergarten seeks to great stimulating and carefully planned learning environment so that children can develop the basic habits and skills that will last with them throughout their lives. Montessori early childhood education curriculum is aimed at:

- Enhancing the desire for education and exploration.
- The education of the children in line with the nature of the child and his abilities, away from just teaching and feeding him of knowledge and facts.
- The child benefits from the services that provided in the Institutes clinics if they need them.
- Include the children with special needs according to the Montessori standards.

2- Training and Research:

In this domain, the Palestinian Child Institute is involved in

- Translation and validation the evidence based tests that related to early childhood disorders.
- Development of specialized information network for early childhood disorders to be the basis for scientific researches which aims to find out the causes, characteristics, conditions, and methods of appropriate intervention for these disorders.
- Conducting research and important studies and publishing them internationally to reflect the reality of early childhood disorders.

- Provision of training courses for people and institutions in the field of early childhood disorders, according to the needs of Palestinians society . Such as shadow teacher training.
- Also provide training courses for parents of children who has this disorders such as Incredible Years for parents training.

Within the strategic plan, The research and training domain is will be evaluated for the aim to expand its mandate beyond disorders to help the institute contribute to ECD in its holistic approach. Lately, the institute finalized a training of trainers on the international toolkit for respecting diversity that was developed by the international network on peace building.

3- Work with communities:

As a new domain, the institute envisages to involve parents, community organizations and families in promoting positive child development environment. Through working with partner organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations, we aim at raising awareness, creating accepting environment for children with developmental disorders and improve quality of ECD programs at large.

Partnership:

Through partnership, we hope to achieve the following:

- 1- Help utilization of self regulation theory within the Palestinian context and endorse it in the programs addressing children with developmental disorders.
- 2- Undertake research in the area of ECD and ECD services for the aim to generate knowledge about quality of existing services in the country
- 3- Capacity building in the area of autism detection and management using practical, evidence-based tools that are adaptable to Palestinian context
- 4- Develop a rehabilitation program in Gaza as such services are completely lacking in a hardly hit and isolated society
- 5- Offer training opportunities to a critical mass of Palestinian practitioners in the area of ECD, self regulation and autism management.

Expected amount needed for the above objectives, except the development of Gaza center is 100,000 USD. According to preliminary assessment, the cost of establishing a center in Gaza was around 400,000 USD. For this center, the Palestinian Child Institute will seek funds from different local and international donors.