

27.11.2012

Day for Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC) Israel:



On November 20th, 1989 the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the convention of the children's right. Since then every year on November 20th there is a celebration in all over the world for children's rights. Israel has joined the General Assembly of the United Nation only in 1991!

On October 21st we had a meeting with the DPAC collages in Neve-Shalom. We built a program for DPAC 2012, which contained two main events; the first one is in Arab school and the second one is in Jewish school.

Unfortunately, things didn't go well as we thought it would be. The situation in Israel has changed and our planning as well.

The crisis between Israel and Palestine dictated a new program for us. Together with the Open House and the spiritual center in Neve Shalom we had our DPAC event on November 18th at "Alamaria" school in Ramle. Between all the sirens and the panic, we succeed in our event with children in age 12.



Yael Ben-Shabat, Mohammad Najjar, Nadine Shbeta and Bissan Salman at "Alamaria" school.

November 18th "Alamaria" school:

We started our activity by presenting our selves; we explained about the Open House, the spiritual center in Neve-Shalom GNRC, DPAC and the connection between them. We started our activity with brainstorming to the word "Rights".



I have the right to have: good treatment, clothes, compassion and care, shelter, well treated, friendship, education, freedom etc.



Bissan Salman and Mohammad Najjar at the Brainstorming activity.

After the brainstorming we played with the kids a short 'ice braking' game to make them feel comfortable with the next activities.



Mohammad Najjar playing with the kids an 'ice breaking' game.

On the next activity we divided the group into 4-5 little groups. Each group got a different picture that contains a specific situation with a lake of right. Each group had a discussion about their own picture.



For instance one of the groups got a picture of characters that don't have an appropriate conditions for living or adequate shelter. The group started to discuss the situation and wrote number of rights that the characters in the pictures don't get: the right to play and to have fun, the right to drink clean water, the right to have freedom, the right to live in peace and safety, the right to live in a clean area, the right to have food etc.



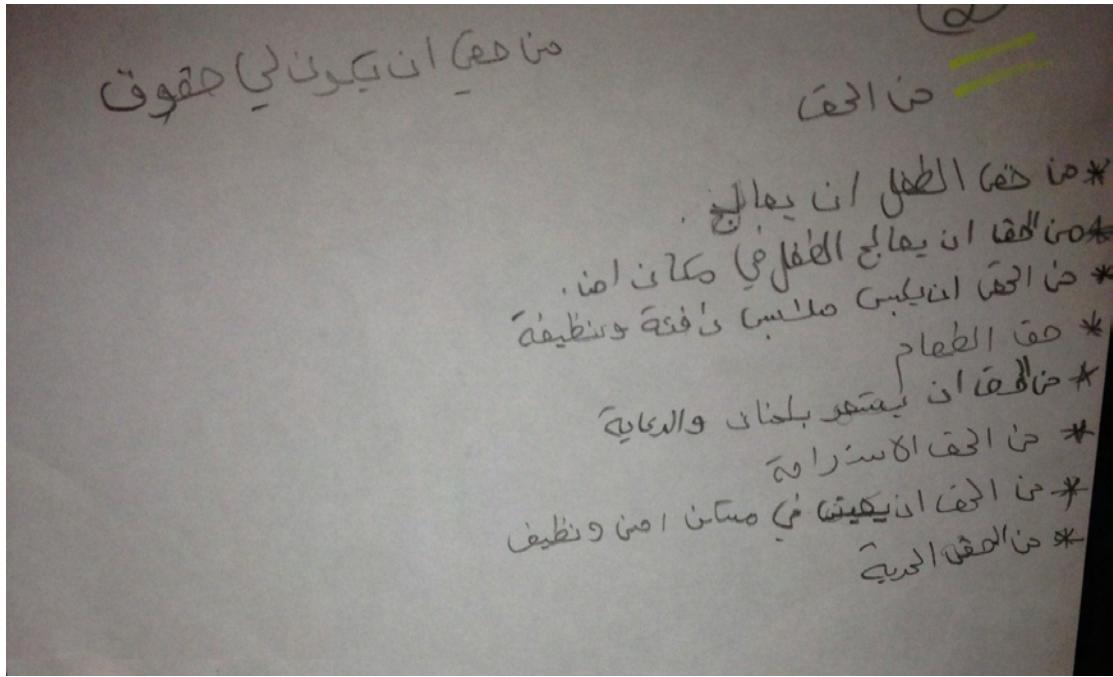
Yael Ben-Shabat working with one of the groups.



Nadine Shbeta working with one of the groups.

Other group got a picture of character that doesn't get an appropriate treatment or access to health services. On the top of the paper the group wrote: "I have the right to have rights". After their discussion they wrote number of rights which belong to this picture: the right to have a well treatment, the right to have a well treatment in an appropriate place, the right to have clean and warm clothes etc.





Each group presented its work in front of the class and we had a big discussion all together about each picture, each right.



On the next activity, we have played the chocolate game. We used this activity in our last DPAC 2011 in a different school and it was a great success; that's why we decided to have this activity as a part of our event this year.

How can we play the chocolate game?

This game is like the 'class' game that most of the kids used to play in their childhood. The main goal of the game is to win the big chocolate.



We divided the class into small groups, we gave them a cube that they had to through (each group in its round) and to move depends on the result they got. The numbers 10, 19 and 25 are the magic numbers. If one of the groups will “touch” one of these numbers they will have the right to set a new rule that will be applied on all of the groups (they will win a small chocolate too).



Most of the new rules were really cruel. This game was not just fun but also very important for demonstrating the right to equality. After we finished the game and one of the groups won the big chocolate, we had a concluding discussion.

We discussed a little bit about the rights of the children in these war days; one of the kids said that they don't have a shelter in their building and if they will hear the sirens they won't know what to do. In the end of the discussion we gave the kids number of facts from the world:

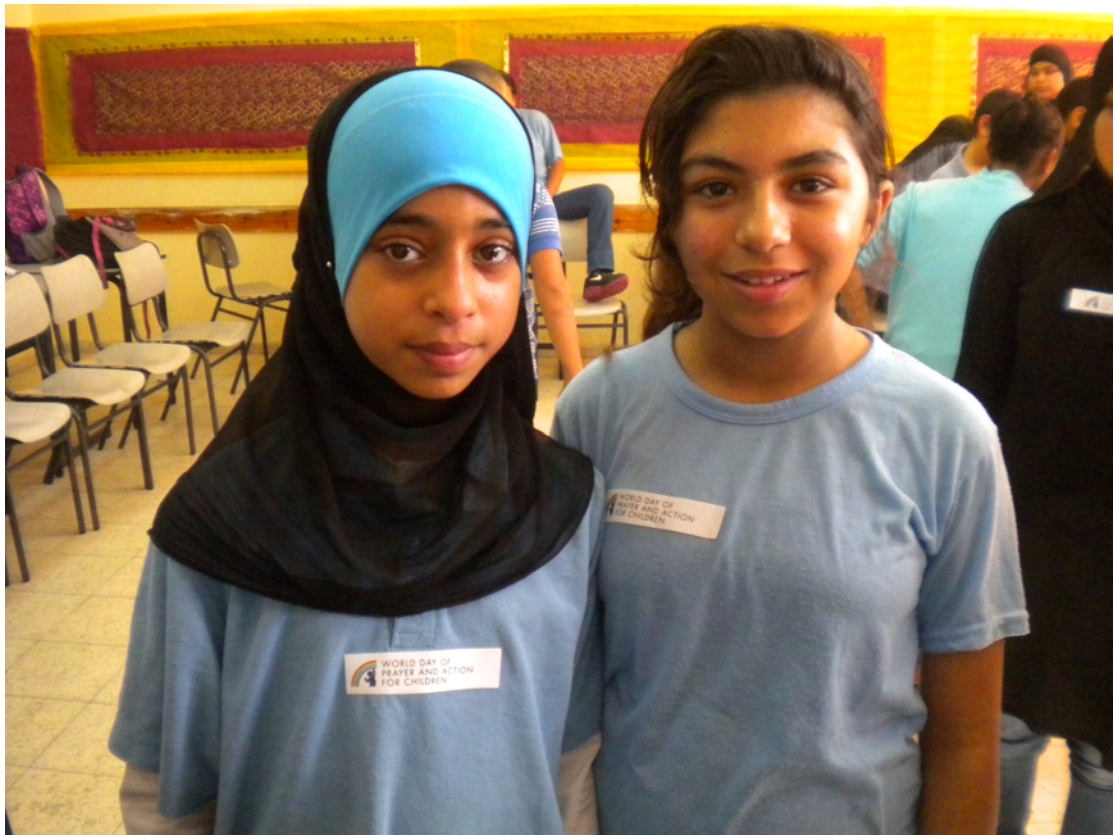
*For the 1.9 Billion children from the developing world, there are: 650 million without adequate shelter, 400 million with no access to safe water, 270 million with no access to health services.

*1.4 million die each year from lack of access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. 10.6 million died in 2003 before they reached the age of 5.

The children were surprised when they heard this information and I believe that this activity has changed their way of thinking.

At the end of the activity we gave to the children a nice sticker with the symbol of DPAC.







Let me end this short summary with an inspiration phrase from a book that I like:

“There is no prescription for how to practice random kindness. It comes from the heart. Your gift might be to pick up litter in your neighborhood, make an anonymous contribution to a charity, send some cash in an unmarked envelope to make someone experiencing financial stress breathe a little easier, save an animal by bringing it to an animal rescue agency, or get a volunteer position feeding hungry people at a church or shelter. You may want to do all these things, and more. The point is, giving is fun and it doesn’t have to be expensive. Perhaps the greatest reason to practice random kindness is that it brings great contentment into your life. Each act of kindness rewards you with positive feelings and reminds you of the important aspects of life- service, kindness, and love. If we all do our own part, pretty soon we will live in a nicer world.” [Richard Carlson, PH.D.](#)



Draw your life with the colors of optimism and joy.

Bissan Salman