

Integrating and Empowering Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Courtesy of the Princess Basma Center



The Princess Basma Center (PBC), established in 1965, works to integrate and empower children with disabilities and their families in their communities through a number of interventions that include physical rehabilitation, inclusive education, and the development and dissemination of best practices. The center also strives to influence policy and legislation.

The PBC is one of four major national rehabilitation centers in Palestine and the main national referral for children by the Palestinian Ministry of Health for physical medicine and rehabilitation services. The PBC is a member of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network (EJHN) and the first rehabilitation center in Palestine to receive accreditation by the Joint Commission International (JCI) for quality health services. The center runs four main operations: the Child Rehabilitation Center, the Physiotherapy Clinic for adults, the Inclusive School, and the Vocational Training Workshop.

Child Rehabilitation Center

The Child Rehabilitation Center treats various kinds of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, neuromuscular diseases, pediatric limb deficiencies, congenital malformations, post musculoskeletal traumas, autism, and ADHD. Children are provided with one or a combination of the following therapies: physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy, sensory therapy, music therapy, recreational therapy, and psychosocial support. In 2015, the center treated 800 children from all over the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem through its

inpatient and outpatient services administered through the following units and programs: A highly specialized **Autism Unit** provides treatment for children with autism, and in 2015, 60 children received treatment at its facilities. The **Outreach Program**, implemented in various locations throughout the West Bank, helps expand the capacities of partner organizations and builds day care centers to provide treatment for children with disabilities. The **Mother Empowerment Program** forms a part of the children's rehabilitation program and provides specialized support and education to mothers. In 2015, 365 mothers participated in the program. **Clinical Training for University Students** is offered to university students in partnership with national Palestinian universities. On average, 60 students per year receive training at the center.



Organization Accredited
by Joint Commission International

Adult Physiotherapy Clinic

The Princess Basma Center provides physiotherapy services for adult patients from Jerusalem who come for physiotherapy and hydrotherapy treatment. In 2015 the clinic treated 922 patients.

The Princess Basma Inclusive School

The Inclusive School is based in Jerusalem and serves the geographic area of Jerusalem. In September 2016, the school will start its academic year with 490 students, 32 percent of whom are children with disabilities and learning difficulties. The school is a model for inclusive education from kindergarten to 12th grade; children with disabilities study side by side with children without disabilities. In parallel to their education, children with disabilities benefit from a comprehensive rehabilitation package provided by the Child Rehabilitation Center.

Vocational Training Workshop

The Princess Basma Center is home to a small handicrafts workshop – The Sheltered Workshop – where adults with disabilities are trained and work within a safe environment. The Sheltered Workshop currently trains 24 persons.



Therapy session at the pediatric physiotherapy unit.
Photo courtesy of PBC.



Yousef is receiving physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy and, as pictured here, speech and communication therapy. Photo courtesy of PBC.

Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way

Yousef was born with cerebral palsy that was diagnosed late and not considered treatable by the doctor of his village. The perseverance of his mother Futoun, however, paid off when her long search for treatment led her to the PBC. After a year and a half of receiving therapy, Yousef has shown

substantial improvement in auditory, visual, and tactile perception; using a walker, he walks indoors with very good control and balance, expresses himself, smiles, and uses facial expressions. Now age three, Yousef will continue to receive therapy in order to gain a level of independence that will help improve his quality of life.



Students at PBC Inclusive School receiving therapy sessions. Photo courtesy of PBC.



An inclusive education classroom at PBC Inclusive School. Photo courtesy of PBC.

For more information, please visit www.basma-centre.org, contact us at info@basma-centre.org, or stop by our center on the Mount of Olives, Rabi'ah Al 'Adaweyeh Rd., # 73, opposite Maqassed Hospital, Jerusalem.