



**HABILITATION PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR  
PREPARED BY NAHLA GHANDOUR  
2023-2024**

Beirut 12/12/2023

**SUMMARY OF Q4 WORK 2023**

Work resumed September 15, 2023, after the summer vacation.

**ALIYA OTHMAN**

Last year, I had an agreement with Mr. Stephan Heneggler, to accept a child from Somalia, who had Cerebral Palsy.

Contact with the mother started by Spring 2023. The director answered all Aliya' mother questions and requests. It was set that Aliya will arrive to Lebanon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September 2023.

Around this time, Aliya Abed Al Razak Othman, from Somalia, arrived to Beirut with her mother and sister and aunt. At the beginning we rented a small room for the family to settle in. During this time, we purchased furniture for the family. It consists of a fridge, cleaning machine, oven with its' accessories, 4 mattresses, and 4 cushions. We sent a Taxi to bring the family from the Airport. The room proved to be very small. So, we started searching for new accommodation, in the camp. We could later find a small 2 rooms apartment, with a small kitchen and a toilet room, in Mar Elias Palestinian Refugee camp in Beirut. The apartment was next to the Preschool.

Aliya started attending therapy sessions, in all domains of intervention. Special education, Speech therapy (feeding/ eating & drinking skills), Occupational Therapy, and intervention with the mother. Aliya attended 4 days a week. Successive meeting with the mother, were conducted.

Unfortunately, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, war erupted in Gaza strip and southern Lebanon. We were very worried that the war will extend deeper into Lebanon. It was better for the family to return to Somalia.

Before their departure, Sumaia, Aliya's mother, attended training sessions with her daughter. In the last sessions, the mother was trained on techniques of intervention with her daughter at home. All therapists and educators, who worked with Aliya, submitted reports that included the objective of the training and activities that should be executed.

When the family arrived to Somalia, Aliya and her sister were very sick, and were submitted to the Hospital. Our communication with the mother continued. I learned that Aliya, was

admitted to hospital 3 times, and the day I contacted the mother, Aliya was brought back home.

I agreed with the mother that when Aliya's health became better, she will start working with her daughter. We also agreed on sharing videos reflecting Aliya's development. We also agreed that we will continue on line to work with Aliya.

All interventions reports were given to the mother, we read it with her before she left, to make sure the mother understood everything. The mother took several videos of the therapists working with Aliya, it will be a reference to the mother on how to execute the training.

## WORK AT THE PRESCHOOL- Q4 2023

Children started attending at the beginning of October 2023. The 3 month's period, till the end of 2023, is an assessment period of children's skills and preparing individual reports for each child, in every discipline.

Some children worked in groups 5 days a week, 4 hours every day. Others received individual therapy sessions, twice per week, in disciplines they need.

Before the end of December 2023, all Individual Intervention Reports should be finalized. Afterwards, at the beginning of January 2024, we will start inviting parents to attend their children's activities, at the Preschool, and each professional will have a meeting with the attending parent, answering their questions and discussing the program prepared for their children.

At the time being, there are 39 children (11 females, 29 males) with multiple disability, enrolled in our programs. 32% of them have Cerebral Palsy, 9% have Developmental Delay, 53% have Autism, and 6% have Learning Difficulties.

Our staff consists of 4 Special Educators (one is specialized in working with children with Autism), 3 Special Educator Assistants, a Clinical Psychologist, a Speech Therapist, a Physical Therapist and an Occupational Therapist. The Administration, consists of the Director & the Executive Secretary. We have 2 Cleaning Assistants and a Driver.

We work 5 days a week, from 8:00 AM till 3:00 PM.

Children started to go the Pediatric Special Need Dental Clinic, at the Lebanese University, for treatment and surgeries. This project is funded by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) from England.

Two funding agencies, support our activities, MAP from United Kingdom, and Danish Muslim Aid, through Taawon (a Palestinian Funding Agency situated in Lebanon). We also receive individual funds from several local & international individuals. The Swiss group, consisting of several members, send support every quarter. We receive from them the highest individual donation in comparison with other supporting individuals.

I will send, via WhatsApp, videos of children during activities, with explanations.

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