



Spring 2022



Starting Early = Amazing Results

As Palestinian children are likely to need to learn Arabic, English, and Hebrew to navigate their world, speech therapy is an important aid and needs to start as early as possible. Here the therapists helps this girl learn what it feels like to control her mouth and cheek muscles. Later in the session she matched words with pictures to tell a story about her life and build language skills.

Helping children speak so others can understand (expressive language) and recognize spoken words (receptive language) are the focus of speech therapy at the Spafford Children's Center. Additionally, the therapists work on the mechanics of articulation, pitch, and volume to help children express their thoughts and achieve developmental milestones.



Addressing Grief and Trauma

This brother and sister lost their mother to cancer. Their devoted father brought them to the SCC for help with English and to receive counseling for the grief that has overwhelmed their lives. Here they work together to solve the word puzzles and match the letter blocks to the words on the left. This is a simple tool, but one that the English teacher at SCC finds very useful. It mixes letter recognition with pictures and letter combinations....and it is fun.

Palestinian children face personal stressors and societal traumas. Children are at heightened risk of exploitation, violence, and abuse due to movement restrictions, closure of schools, and the interruption of mental health and psychosocial supports due to the pandemic. At SCC children and families get support to deal with family traumas and loss as well as community issues and tensions. SCC is a safe haven for help and healing.





Wishing Every Mother a Happy Day!

March 21 was Mother's Day in Palestine. It was a time to recognize the contributions mothers have made not only to preserving Palestinian society, but also to protecting the family. At the Spafford Children's Center there were coffee cups filled with flowers for each mother. Children thrilled their mothers with handmade cards expressing their love and devotion.

Some kids surprised their mothers by sneaking down the halls of the SCC and popping into the room where the mothers waited to give big smiles and happy hugs. The moms loved the activities and went home with full hearts.

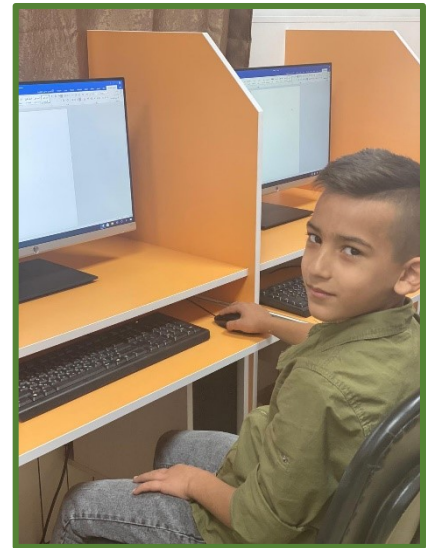
SCC values the sacrifices mothers make to ensure that their children get the support they need and offers Mother's Groups so the women can learn how to reinforce at home the advances their children made at SCC. This multiplies the learning by encouraging the mother to help other children in the family.

Making Amazing Progress

When Hassan, age 9, came to the SCC math problems were little more than scribbles on a page. He struggled with math concepts such as the order of numbers, subtraction and borrowing, addition and carrying, multiplication, and division. He did not know how to use a ruler, read a clock, or distinguish geometric shapes.

The SCC teacher devised a program of positive reinforcement mixed with new challenges at every meeting. Using teaching aids like board games, puzzles, beads, number cards, and number games Hassan made amazing progress.

Now he can do three-digit multiplication and division; read an analog and digital clock; distinguish and draw shapes; use a ruler, protractor, and caliper; and, most important, feels wonderful about his accomplishments. His parents have decided to enroll him for another semester of math at SCC and have registered him for art instruction and a computer class. Mixing fun with learning—that is the Spafford Children's Center formula!



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With best wishes,

The Rev. Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch
Chair

Wendy Whiting Blome, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer

