

Translation of article that appeared in the local Kiryat Gat Newspaper, "Ma Nishma"
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Democracy - Yes in the Kindergarten **An educational program, the first of its kind in Israel, in the City of Kiryat Gat**

Ms. Leah Rosenberg, the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Education and responsible for the Pedagogic Department in the Ministry, visited this project in the City of Kiryat Gat – the first of its kind, democracy education in kindergartens – which is organized by the Adam Institute. Fifteen kindergartens in the city have been involved in this project for the past five years, learning the basic principles of democracy and applying these to their daily lives.

The educational staff, kindergarten teachers and assistants study the unique method of the Adam Institute and how to teach democracy to young children. In most of the kindergartens, the program is facilitated by Adam Institute staff. In one third of the kindergartens, the actual kindergarten staff facilitates the program itself. The future plan is that more and more kindergarten teachers will begin to facilitate the program independently.

The program has received positive feedback in other parts of Israel and representatives of the Adam Institute have also presented parts of the program in Europe in meetings with other educational experts.

Leah Rosenberg expressed her appreciation of the program and the way it is implemented in the kindergarten. She said that the program brought a different atmosphere to the kindergartens – one of respect and open dialogue among the children. One of the children said to her: "In the past if I didn't agree with another child we argued and sometimes even had a fight. Today, we listen to each other and we cooperate more".

The Adam Institute is a non-profit organization that promotes democracy and peace education and implements many educational projects all over the country and in different sectors of Israeli society.

Leah Rosenberg visited Rachel Yitzhak's Begin Kindergarten and Yaffa Siboni's Shimshon Kindergarten. Also participating in the visit were staff from the Adam Institute, inspectors from the Ministry of Education and the Manager of the Kindergarten Section, Rivka Bozgalu.