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MULTI-SENSORY SCIENCE GARDEN OPENED AT JORDAN RIVER VILLAGE

BY KKL-JNF
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A multi-sensory science garden is inaugurated by JNF Australia in the Jordan River Village, an overnight for children with serious illnesses and special needs.

The new garden, established with the support of JNF Australia, includes a range of facilities that stimulate all the senses, including imagination and thought. The science park's inauguration ceremony was one of the highlights of the JNF Australia representatives' visit to Israel.

The Jordan River Village is a holiday camp for children with chronic illnesses, life-threatening diseases, disabilities and special needs. The village provides the children and their families with unforgettable fun experiences- that are medically safe. Activities range between sports, horse-riding, swimming, music, arts & crafts workshops, performances, social activities and more.

Among the participants in the ceremony were KKL-JNF Land Development Authority Director Yaron Ohiyon, KKL-JNF Northern Region Director Dr. Omri Boneh, JNF Australia CEO Dan Springer, JNF Victoria President Ronit Fraid, Lower Galilee Regional Council Chairman Motti Dotan, Jordan River Village Chairman Haim Topol and Yuval Halamish, the Jordan River Village CEO.

The JNF Australia delegation toured the village and viewed a movie made about it. Ten-year-old Adam, a boy with cerebral palsy, said, "I always feel different, not like one of the normal kids. At the Jordan River Village I can just relax and have fun."

Noa, who has chronic renal disease, added: "We get attention here that we don't get anywhere else. Being in the village is an experience that really changed my life and helped me understand that I shouldn't be ashamed of who I am."

Adam, Noa and thousands of other children will now be able to enjoy the unique facilities and playground mechanics that have as yet never been seen in Israeli parks, such as: bicycles that power a light fixture, centrifuges for various materials, a gravitation track for balls, a variety of sound and music mechanisms and many other fun and educational activities.

Jordan River Village is one of 16 villages around the world belonging to the international organization SeriousFun Children's Network, founded by actor Paul Newman. World renowned Israeli actor Haim Topol serves as the organization's chairperson in Israel. "The new playground will bring many hours of enjoyment to our children, and for this I thank our friends from Australia," said Topol.