

Evaluation Highlights 2012-2013 School Year

In the 2012-2013 school year, Sifriyat Pijama operated in 6,500 classrooms serving 194,000 children in 140 communities across Israel. The evaluation is based on mid-year and end-of-year teacher questionnaires and feedback from teachers. The overall response to the questionnaires was 56%. The evaluation's main findings:

- **The Books:** 82% of teachers rated the books excellent or very good.
- **Reading in the classroom:** 100% of the teachers reported reading the books at least once in the class, with 82% of them reporting reading the books at least 2 times.
- **Book related Activities:** The majority of the teachers reported conducting book-related activities in their class; a third conducted activity around most of the books and two thirds reported conducting activities around some of the books. The types of activities included various arts and crafts projects, acting out the story, sharing personal experiences and more.
- **Encouraging reading in the home:** A majority of the teachers reported encouraging the children to read at home, through conversations with the children (46%), correspondence/conversations with the parents (42%), positive reinforcement to the children who read at home (23%) and by giving family assignments related to the books (19%).
- **Integration of the program:** One aim of the evaluation was to gauge teachers' enthusiasm for the program over time. Teachers in Sifriyat Pijama for more than a year were asked to respond to a set of statements on long-term use of the program. 65% of these teachers strongly agreed that it becomes easier to implement the program from year to year. 71% of the veteran teachers reported that Sifriyat Pijama is a significant part of their work and integrates very well into their teaching plan.
- **Parent and teacher suggestions:** 89% of the teachers reported being extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the monthly teacher's newsletter containing suggested activities. 93% of the teachers reported being extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the parent suggestions that appear in the back of every book
- **Impact of the program:** 70% of the teachers strongly agreed that the children's love for listening to stories and books increased. 72% of the teachers noted that the books stimulated conversations on values and/or Jewish values in the preschool.
- **Multi-year impact:** When comparing teachers who were in the 2nd year in the program, to teachers who were 3rd or 4th year in the program, the reported impact of the program steadily increased: 3rd and 4th year teachers reported reading more books to the children, working more in smaller groups on the books. They noted an increase in the "Jewish vocabulary" in the children's preschool conversations and said that the teacher-parent relationship was strengthened by the program.