

Educational Clowning Initiative

Educational clowning influences school climate and creates an improved, long-term dialogue between teachers and pupils.

Educational clowning emerged from the medical clowning field as a new form of therapeutic clown care tailored for the school system. The educational clown is an indispensable part of the education system and validates students and teachers alike.



The educational clown's transition to the school system

The emotional, social and achievement challenges – together with the processes of building an identity and self-image – turn the years of school education into a period filled with stresses and anxieties. And this directly affects the school climate and the students' openness to learning. The educational clown brings the art of play and humor to the school setting to reduce stress, enhance self-identity and create a feeling of belonging.



Educational Clowning Center by Talia Safra's method aids in:

- Reducing stress between the pupil and the educational system
- Enhancing the pupil's ability to build up self-identity and belonging
- Creating a new language within the school, which integrates humor, sincerity and intimacy



The clown enables a new way of communication wherever he goes; communication emanating from creativity, humor, empathy, listening, and cooperation.

"Educational clowning brings joy to the school. The students eagerly await the short encounters they may have with the clowns during recess, and sometimes at the beginning of a test or lesson. Educational clowns in a school help create a more positive atmosphere."

Smadar Zeller, Principal of ORT Singalovski High School Tel Aviv

"Now that the Educational Clowning Initiative has been at our school, I cannot imagine school without educational clowns."

Einat Gura, Head of the WIZO Nahalal Youth Village School

Tasks of the Educational Clown

- Pinpointing pupils in hardship, risk, social isolation, emotional problems, and using professional tools of educational clowning to address such situations
- Taking part in lessons in order to create an atmosphere of openness
- Resolving conflicts by humor and play
- Creating positive and open communication between pupils and teachers
- Improving school climate
- Introducing habits and discipline in nonjudgmental and non-authoritative ways
- Being a significant figure who influences communication among pupils



"Through the weekly reports sent in by the educational clowns, I am able to see the pupils from a different point of view and understand them differently."

*Galia Aleph,
Director, WIZO Nahalal
Youth Village*

Educational Clowning Center by Talia Safra's method Methodology

The Educational Clowning Initiative has developed an exclusive methodology for clowning in schools. Our research and academic training serve as key elements of our approach to improving the school climate. We are constantly updating our methods in accordance to our continued experience in school environments.

The Educational Clowning Center has developed specific tools related to the mission and the profession of educational clowning.



Educational Clowning Center by Talia Safra's method - International Training Program

The Educational Clowning Initiative's international training program prepares clowns for educational clowning at schools in their country.

Our goal is to match the training program for your needs
The training program includes:

- training workshops
- lectures
- in-person training courses
- weekly team training calls

Using our research-backed methodology to support new clowns, we aim to make the biggest impact possible in schools everywhere.



Who we are:

Talia Safra – Founder and Head, Educational Clowning Center

Talia Safra is one of the medical clowning pioneers in Israel, a medical clown for over 16 years with the Dream Doctors project, and a clowning instructor at the Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts for over 15 years. Talia holds a Master's degree in theater directing from Middlesex University London. Before founding the Educational Clowning Initiative, Talia developed a therapeutic methodology of clowning for youth and children with mental illness. She also worked as a therapeutic clown in the field of mental health for over a decade. Talia's experience has taught her that, "you do not need to be sick to meet a clown."

Jana Schmidt - Pedagogical Director

Jana is a graduate of the Institute for Democratic Education in Israel, holds a B.Ed and teaching certification. Jana specializes in working with youth at risk. She trained under the tutelage of Talia Safra and holds therapeutic and educational clowning certification from Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts in Israel. Jana is presently pursuing a MA in Art Therapy.

We look forward to creat with you!

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