

The DIR Floortime Model for Treating Autism & Special Needs

September 7-8, 2023
LATVIA





What is the DIR model?

- The Developmental, Individual differences, Relationship-based model (DIR), developed by Dr. Stanley Greenspan and Dr. Serena Wieder, is a framework for assessment and intervention for children with special needs.
- The objectives of the DIR model are to build healthy foundations for social, emotional, and intellectual functioning, and promoting developmental and functional capacities within a context child's social interactions.
- The model incorporates knowledge from different developmental fields such as psychology, neurology, occupational therapy, speech and language development, and applies a comprehensive integrative approach.
- According to the principles of the model, the therapeutic process is based on identifying the sources of strength and the challenges of each child in the different developmental areas, identifying the child's areas of interest, and tailoring the process to the child's special characteristics and significant relationships.
- The model incorporates play based approach to treatment (Floortime) as well as semi-structured approach aimed at helping kids learn new skills and apply them in meaningful ways throughout their daily functioning.





The DIR Israel Organization

- The **DIR Israel organization** is a nonprofit multi-disciplinary organization with the mission of establishment and promotion of the DIR model and integrative multidisciplinary treatment for children with developmental difficulties and their parents.
- Since 2002, the DIR Israel steering committee has been advocating the study and promotion of the model in Israel, on a voluntary basis, under the guidance of its mentor and the model co creator, Dr. Serena Wieder. The official organization was founded in 2012. It currently operates in collaboration and association with the Profectum Foundation in USA.
- The organization operates to teach the model and support its implementation for families and educational professionals around the country. In the past decade the implementation of the model has spread significantly country-wide. It is recognized and supported as a treatment of choice by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in Israel.
- The goals of the organization are to implement the model and promote its use in Israel among children with special needs (at different levels of functioning) and to create accessible services in the spirit of the model for a wide range of geographical areas, populations and types of disability.





Proposed outline for presentation schedule days 1-2

DAY ONE

September 7, 2023

08:00–09:00 Registration

09:00–09:30 Opening remarks?

09:30–11:00 Introduction to the DIR model and its use in treatment of Autism and other developmental disorders – **Dr. Yana Peleg**, Clinical psychologist

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–12:45 The **I** in the DIR - Individual differences and their impact on development – **Dr. Yael Bruck Binya**, Occupational therapist

12:45–13:00 Questions and Answers

13:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:00 The **R** in DIR – Relational foundations for development – **Dr. Yana Peleg**, Clinical psychologist

15:00–15:20 Break

15:20–16:45 The **D** in DIR – foundational capacities of development levels 1-3 Regulation, Engagement, Two-way purposeful interaction – **Chen Carmi-Ladizinsky**, Occupational therapist

16:45–17:00 Questions and Answers





DAY TWO

September 8, 2023

09:00 –09:45 The **D** in DIR – foundational capacities of development level 4, Shared interactive problem solving – **Chen Carmi-Ladizinsky**, Occupational therapist

09:45–10:30 The **D** in DIR – foundational capacities of development level 5 – The origins and foundations of symbolic play and thought – **Dr. Yana Peleg**, Clinical psychologist

10:30–11:00 Break

11:00–11:45 The **D** in DIR – foundational capacities of development level 6 - Building bridges between ideas and formation of logical abstract thought – **Dr. Yana Peleg**, Clinical psychologist

11:45–12:00 Questions and Answers

12:00–13:00 – Lunch Break

13:00–14:30 Development of Language and communication from the perspective of DIR model – **Maya Kestenbaum**, Speech therapist

14:30–15:15 Application of Floortime principles and strategies in treatment – **Dr. Yael Bruck Binya**, Occupational therapist

15:15–15:30 Break

15:30–16:15 Learning and Semi structured intervention – **Maya Kestenbaum**, Speech therapist

16:15–17:00 Questions and Answers to the team panel

About the Presenters

Chen Carmi-Ladizinsky, BOTR/L is a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist, who has practiced as a DIR/Floortime therapist, supervisor and consultant for over 20 years. She is a senior faculty member in a DIR Israel Organization and provides services in a wide range of settings such as schools, preschools, clinics and home consultations. Chen has founded and runs a Multi-Disciplinary private practice in Rehovot, Israel, which provides a wide array of services to children with developmental disorders and their families. In the clinic Chen provides direct services to children and families as well as consultation, training and supervision to other clinicians. In addition she provides training, consultation and supervision in special education schools and preschools focusing on integrative treatment and education.



Dr. Yael Bruck Binya is a licensed occupational therapist and Doctor in Psychology. She specializes in the field of special needs and autism, and served for 10 years as the General Manager of the Israeli DIR organization. Yael finished her bachelor's degree in occupational therapy in 1994 and has been working since then, her master's degree was in Child Development and has earned her Doctoral degree in at PSP in 2020. DIR Israel is the official organization that trains therapists and educators who work with children with special needs using the DIR model by Greenspan and Wieder. The organization is part of a large nonprofit organization called the Society for Children at Risk. In addition to her role as a manager, mentor, consultant, and trainer with the DIR Israel organization, Dr. Binya runs a private clinic where she provides therapy to children with developmental delays and autism, sensory disorders, regulation disorders, sensory affective regulation and senso-motor delays. Dr. Binya lectures, provides trainings & mentors multidisciplinary teams, and individual therapists in private and public settings nationally and internationally.



Maya Kestenbaum, B.A SLP is a registered and licensed Speech and Language Pathologist since 1998 and is a senior faculty member in DIR Israel organization. She specializes in working primarily with children and adolescents diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and related communication difficulties, utilizing DIR and developmental language models. Maya has a vast experience of over 20 years working with children with special needs in different settings including public service centers, private clinic, home based services, and special education schools and pre-schools. In addition to providing direct service to children and families Maya regularly provides supervision, consultation, and training to professionals and school based teams.



Dr. Yana Peleg is a licensed clinical psychologist who has earned her Ph.D. in California, USA in 2005. She has extensive clinical experience in psychotherapy with children and adults and specializes in working with children with Autism Spectrum and other developmental disorders. Dr. Peleg's experience and training also includes comprehensive diagnostic assessments of young children, infant-parent psychotherapy,



program coordination, and clinical supervision. While working in California, Dr. Peleg has founded and ran a multidisciplinary clinic specializing in providing integrative treatment to children and families. In the past eight years she has been practicing in Israel providing individual services to children and families with a wide range of developmental and emotional difficulties. She continuously provides teaching, training, supervision and consultation to preschools and individual clinicians. Dr. Peleg speaks at conferences and professional meetings nationally and internationally and is a senior faculty member in the DIR Israel organization.

