



A letter to George

Written by Nilly Venezia

Three weeks ago I got a phone call from Yael, one of the kindergarten teachers who participated in our training program: "Multicultural Education in Early Childhood".

This is the story she told me:

"At the beginning of the year I was told by the regional inspector that I will have a Bedouin child in my kindergarten. The child, Machmud, does not understand or speaks Hebrew at all. At the beginning, his behavior was disturbing. He used to irritate other children and even was violent. I could understand the reason for this behavior since he could not communicate with the children.

I thought of different ways to help him to be integrated in the kindergarten and one day I had an idea: I will read the children, the story of George (one of the children in the "My Story" book – N.V.). Since he does not understand Hebrew and the book is written in Arabic as well, I invited Machmud's mother to join me.

We set all together. Machmud's mother read one paragraph in Arabic and I read it in Hebrew until we finished reading the story. We were discussing the story, the children discovered interest in this "weird language" and we taught them words in Arabic.

Machmud was so happy and proud and the children asked to write a letter to George".

Needless to say how moved I was to hear Yael's story.

Tomorrow, we are going to create the documentary film on George and I will give him the letter and the drawings the children sent him.

This story is not over yet. I am looking forward to see George's reaction when he receives the letter.

Will he go and visit the children?