



מרכז אל"ט
למשפחה



The Israeli Society for
Autistic Children

Branches

Manual of Rights

From Diagnosis Age to Adulthood

for Children on the Autism Spectrum

2017

Center
63A Krinitzi Ramat Gan
Tel.03-6703077
b_lauren@alut.org.il

Jerusalem
30 Hatzfira Street
Tel.03-5665294
Mishpacha_jerusalem@alut.org.il

Beer Sheva and South Israel
20 Ilan Ramon Rd.
Beer Sheva
Tel. 08-6431528
Mishpacha_beer_sheva@alut.org.il

Arab Sector
63A Krinitzi Ramat Gan
Tel.052-4237535
Mishpacha_migzar@alut.org.il

Haifa
190 Pinski Street, Haifa
Tel. 04-8101569
Mishpacha_haifa@alut.org.il

Karmiel and the Valleys
POB 50061 Karmiel 21605
Tel. 04-9885590
Mishpacha_carmiel@alut.org.il

Ministry of Welfare and Social Services
-
Care for People with Autism Service



In collaboration
with:

The Lauren
Hozmi
Family

Dear family,

Knowing your rights and entitlements is an important tool in helping your family cope with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum, from the outset and throughout life.

In this booklet you will find collated information on your child's rights, from the stage of diagnosis and up until adulthood.

I hope you will find the booklet useful.

Please feel free to contact the ALUT Family Center staff with any questions, requests or issues you have. The centers throughout Israel are here to serve you.

Anat Sinvany
Director, ALUT Family Center

** The information contained herewith is not legal advice and does not constitute a substitute for such advice **

Table of contents

ALUT - the Israeli society for autistic children	4
ALUT Family centers	5
National Insurance Institute	7
<i>Disabled Child Allowance.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Augmentation of allowances of completely-dependent children with ASD</i>	<i>12</i>
The rights of Disability Child Allowance recipients	15
<i>Reduced Electricity Bill Payments.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Domestic water bill discount rate.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Income Tax Credits.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Disabled Parking Permit and Exemption from Licensing Fee.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Exemptions from Queues and Personal Care Assistance Fees</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Bezeq Landline Discounts.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Municipal Taxes [“Arnona”].....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Purchase Tax.....</i>	<i>25</i>
Treatment at HMOs.....	27
<i>Diagnosis</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Dental Treatment under Anesthesia Entitlement.....</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Supporting and alternative communication devices for people with disabilities.....</i>	<i>31</i>
Ministry of Welfare	32
Law governing Sick Leave / Absenteeism from place of Employment due to Child Support or Illness	36
Authorization to Employ a Foreign Worker	38
Transportation and Personal Care Assistance	41
Services to Follow Through the Cycle of Life.....	45
<i>Infants (1 to 3 years old).....</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Primary School Children and Adolescents</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>For Adults Aged 21 and Up.....</i>	<i>50</i>
Index of Forms	51
.....	

ALUT - the Israeli society for autistic children

ALUT is the main national parents association and the leading organization handling individuals with autism throughout the individual's cycle of life, encompassing each and every one's needs and those of the autistic individual's family.

ALUT acts to promote the rights in Israel of all children, youth and adults diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) towards improving services available to them and their families and assisting family coping ability.

ALUT's activities are geared at ensuring their legal, social and economic status, livelihood, rehabilitation and future.

ALUT has delineated the following as its main objectives:

- Advocacy: promoting the rights of the autistic population and their families in Israel.
- Advancement: of knowledge in treating autism and development of treatment and coping models.
- Setting up and operating quality frameworks and services for the autistic population and their families.

ALUT employs professionals, carers and counselors throughout Israel in the frameworks established and supported by the association:

- ALUT Baby Centers: rehabilitative day crèches for infant care.
- Residential frameworks (life homes): for youth and adults.
- Day and employment centers for adults over 21.
- Family support centers throughout Israel.
- ALUT Nature, Carmiel: a holiday center for children and their families.
- Holiday camps and clubs.
- Training centers for carers.
- Autism Center, Assaf Harofeh Hospital.
- Inclusion of health quotas into special preschool for children with ASD
[“Gan Tikshoret”]

ALUT Family centers

The family center was established to provide ongoing support for the family, from the time of diagnosis and therefore throughout life. At the center you will receive information, support, advice and backup on a range of issues relating to autism and family coping.

Information offered covers diagnostic and treatment services in your community; rights provided by various organizations such as National Insurance, the Ministry of Welfare, and others; details on education frameworks, residential solutions and employment; names of professionals; leisure activities in the vicinity of your home, and more.

Further, you can find the following activities:

- **Lectures** by leading professionals in the field, on a wide range of topics related to autism.
- **Support group** for parents, grandparents and siblings (separate groups for young and mature siblings).
- **Workshops** offering several meetings focused on autism-related topics.
- **Personal discussions** with a social worker, either in person or by telephone, as needed (possibility of anonymous call).
- **OPEN LINE** - the opportunity to talk to volunteers who are themselves parents of autistic children. **Phone: 03-670.9094**

The Open Line provides telephone access to information and consultations:

Professionals: Sunday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer parents: Sunday to Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.,

Friday 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday: 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

- **Parents for Parents** - mediation among parents for backup, personal support and more.
- **Info Center** for families, professionals, students, and the general public.

The center's services include reference library, reliable internet resources, video library, journals, and data bases.

We, the professionals and volunteer parents at ALUT Family Centers, are glad to answer your queries or discuss your deliberations.

ALUT family center branches

Central branch: 63a Krinitzi Street, Ramat Gan. Tel: 03-6703077.

b_lauren@alut.org.il

Jerusalem: 30 Hatzfira Street, Jerusalem. Tel: 02-5665294

Mishpacha_Jerusalem@alut.org.il

Beer Sheva/South Israel: 20 Ilan Ramon Rd., POB 3570, Beer Sheva.

Tel: 08-6431528

mishpacha_beer_sheva@alut.org.il

Haifa: 10 Pinski Street, Haifa. Tel: 04-8101569

mishpacha_haifa@alut.org.il

Carmiel & Valleys:POB. 50061, Carmiel 21605. Tel: 04-9885590.

mishpacha_carmiel@alut.org.il

Arab sector: 63a Krinitzi Street, Ramat Gan. Tel: 052-4237535

mishpacha_migzar@alut.org.il

National Insurance Institute

Disabled Child Allowance

[Bituach Leumi]

The Entitlement

- The allowance granted to children with autism spectrum disorders current as of 1 January 2014 amounts to 2561 NIS

Families with more than one child receive an extra 50% allowance for each child eligible to a disability allowance living at home.

Children with more than one disability shall be entitled to a single allowance, the amount of which will be that highest amongst the allowances to which the child is eligible.

The legal right of children with autism spectrum disorders to a disabled child allowance.

Children with ASD are defined as "children with special disabilities", and are entitled to an allowance the amount of which is determined by the Ordinances.

The definition of "children with special disabilities" includes: children 90 days of age suffering from any ASD; autism, PDD NOS, ASD, PDD and Asperger Syndrome.

It should be noted that eligibility and function tests carried out by the Medical Committee or unrelated and irrelevant when it comes to children with ASD suffering from "special disabilities". Therefore, even if the child is independent and functioning, they are eligible to an allowance by virtue of having "special disabilities".

Relevant Documentation

1. Disabled Child Allowance Application Form (attached hereto as Annex A).
2. Diagnoses compliant with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Director-General Circular No. 15/13 of November 10 2013 on The Diagnosis of Children with ASD (see below).

It is possible and even recommended to add a report by the educational facility attended by the child, as well as a report listing the child's paramedical treatments (speech therapy, occupational therapy)

Circular requirements include:

- Valid diagnosis in compliance with Circular provisions, namely, a combined diagnosis carried out by both an M.D. and a psychologist.
- Medical doctors certified to diagnose autism include: child and adolescent psychiatrists, developmental pediatricians with at least 3 years of experience in an accredited developmental pediatrics institute, a pediatric neurology specialist or a pediatric neurologist.
- The child must be diagnosed by a developmental, or clinical psychologist. Rehabilitational or educational psychologists may perform a diagnosis provided they possess certifiable training in autism diagnosis.
- As needed, the diagnosis shall involve other healthcare professionals, as well.
- Diagnoses shall comply with DSM-V provisions, and shall include ASD diagnostic criteria and a report of the severity of each of the two DSM-V criteria. The diagnosis can include a reference to the child's developmental and cognitive development (according to age), a functional assessment and an autism symptoms assessment.

[Click here](#) to find more diagnostic tools.

Retroactive Allowance –

According to the new Ordinances, it is possible to file an application for a retroactive allowance for a period not exceeding the 12 months that precede the application. The date upon which the allowance is due to be paid shall not be earlier than the following:

1. The date upon which the symptoms detailed in the child's medical records were first recorded (namely, valid records were compiled at *Tipat Halav*, by the child's doctor, professional caregiver, etc.);

2. The date upon which according to the National Insurance Institute doctor the disability has begun imposing a particularly severe burden of treatment.

Important! Retroactive allowances are not automatically granted, and it is recommended that you apply for it in conjunction with your primary application.

Children with Disabilities Allowance – Application Procedure

The identity of the applicant – The application shall be filed by the parent having custody over the child or by the child's legal guardian. In the absence of a guardian, the application may be filed by whoever has custody over the child.

Application Procedure – Application forms can be found at the National Insurance Institute at www.btl.gov.il (Children – Children with Disabilities) and at NII branches (see annex at the end of this booklet). Please fill out the Application Form and attach all necessary documentation to it, as specified in the Application Form and as provided for in this booklet. The filled-out Application Form complete with Annexes can be filed at your nearest NII branch.

Alternatively, you may file the application via an ASD social worker available at your local Ministry of Welfare office.

Determining Eligibility In Absentia

As much as possible, the National Insurance Institute determines the child's eligibility in their absence from the committee.

B. The parent must sign the statement on the Child with Disabilities Allowance Application Form, in which they request a decision concerning their child in their absence, and states that they are aware of the fact that should the National Insurance Institute deny their request, it will not be possible to review their case with respect to a Total Dependence on Others Allowance. However, the National Insurance Institute may summon the child to appear before the Committee.

Medical Committee Resolution – The resolution issued by the Medical Committee shall be delivered to you by mail. This resolution is normally received within 3 months. To inquire whether a resolution has been issued, please call the NII Call Center at *6050.

Appeals

Should you believe that the Medical Committee's resolution merits reexamination, it is possible to file an appeal accordingly.

The appeal is filed via the NII within 90 days of receiving notice of the NII's resolution. The appeal will be reviewed within 60 days of receiving the appeal and its supporting argumentation.

In order to write the appeal, appellants must send a letter to the NII requesting the minutes recorded by the Medical Committee, which will form the basis of the appeal, as it contains the grounds resulting in the denial or diminution of the allowance. Minutes are not automatically sent and must be requested at the NII branch nearest to your place of residence.

* You may refer to ALUT Family Centers and inquire whether you are eligible to receive legal assistance in formulating and filing an appeal.

Appeals Committee – Procedure

The child must be brought before the Appeals Committee, which will examine the child in regard to which the appeal was filed. The Committee, by the parents' permission, may review the appeal based on documentation alone. It shall be stressed, however, that parents may not request that the child be absent from the examination, although it is definitely possible to contact the Appeals Committee in advance and request to have the hearing conducted in the child's absence.

Representation before the Committee – You are entitled to representation by an attorney, the child's attending physician or a medical specialist.

Appellate Review – The Committee may order that the child be reexamined by a different specialist, or require a different specialist to submit their professional opinion based on the documentation submitted to them.

Appeals on Medical Appeals Committee Decisions

Applicants may file an appeal disputing the decisions of the Medical Appeals Committee to the Regional Labor Court within 30 days of receiving the Committee's decision. Normally, it is now allowed to dispute any professional medical opinions, although it is possible to question any perceived failures of process (e.g.: disregard of legitimate opinions) or the reliance on impertinent legal provisions (e.g.: conducting functioning tests on children with ASD and revoking their allowance as a result).

For the purpose of filing an appeal to the court, you may receive legal assistance and representation free of charge from the Ministry of Justice's Legal Assistance Offices situated across the country:

City	Office Director	Address	Telephone	Fax
Central Offices	Division Commissioner, Elhanan Zuchovitzky, Adv.	1 Hasoreg St. Beit Mitzpe, Second Floor, POB 1777, Postal Code: 94230	02- 6211350	02- 6211357
Tel Aviv Branch	Rivka Adler, Adv.	4 Henrietta Szold St., Ground Floor, Postal Code: 64924	03- 6932777	03- 6932722
Jerusalem and South Branch	Eyal Globus, Adv.	1 Hasoreg St. Beit Mitzpe, Second Floor, POB 1777, Postal Code: 94230	02- 6211333	02- 6211377
Haifa Branch	Yael Peled-Pilpel, Adv.	15A Pal-Yam St., Eleventh Floor, Postal Code: 31043	04- 8633666	04- 8633679

Be'er Sheva Branch	Shmuel Orenstein	33 Shazar Blvd., Beit No'am, Eighth Floor, Postal Code: 84002	08-6404526	08-6404539
---------------------------	-------------------------	--	-------------------	-------------------

Resubmission of Applications

Should the application be denied and the appeal date had elapsed, and should the appeals and additional appeals filed be denied as well, it is possible to file another application after six months had elapsed since the last rejection.

Important! Should any facts be discovered or created which in the NII's view were unknown at the time of denying the application, and which may affect the child's eligibility or its extent (e.g.: an exacerbation of the child's condition), it will be possible to file another application even if six months had not elapsed since the last rejection.

Augmentation of allowances of completely-dependent children with ASD

The NII had approved the augmentation of allowances granted to children with ASD that are 3 years of age or older and that are completely dependent on others for their subsistence.

As of April 2015, the amount added to the allowance has been updated and it now amounts to NIS 1,927. Children aged 3 to 18 years, in addition to a Child with Disabilities Allowance on Account of Autism, receive a Total Dependence on Others Allowance that amounts to NIS 4,488.

As stipulated by the NII, a completely-dependent child is a child in need of assistance at any given time, who is unable to independently perform basic daily tasks, such as wearing clothes, eating, washing, personal hygiene and moving

around the house (in order to ascertain this form of dysfunction, the test will examine the child compared to other children of the same age).

Eligibility commences at the age of three, and is determined by functioning and daily task dependence examinations.

Retroactive allowance -

Under the new regulations, it is possible to file a retroactive allowance application for a period not exceeding the 12 months that precede the date on which the application was filed.

The date for which the allowance will be paid will not be earlier than the following:

1. The date on which the symptoms entailed in the disability found in the medical records were first documented (namely, registration at Tipat Halav, at the doctor's, at a professional caregiver's, etc.);
2. The date on which, in the opinion of the National Insurance Institute's physician, the disability began imposing a highly heavy therapeutic burden.

Important! The retroactive allowance is not given automatically, and it is recommended to apply for it together with the main application.

Please note that in any event no retroactive allowance will be paid before January 1, 2012.

To date, children with ASD eligible to a full disabled child allowance have never been required to undergo functioning and daily task dependence examinations before the NII Medical Committee.

Parents whose child receives a Disabled Child Allowance who believe their child to be in compliance with relevant criteria may fill out the application form available via the following link:

<http://www.btl.gov.il/ואישורים%20טפסים/Documents/t7824.pdf>

- The application form must be filed to the NII branch nearest to your place of residence, and based on the information entered you will be summoned before the NII in order to have your child's eligibility reviewed.
- In addition, it is recommended to add an educational report from the institution attended by your child, and a medical report addressing your child's daily functioning.
- Parents filing a disabled child allowance application for the first time must appear before the Medical Committee and request the performance of dependence examinations.

An approval certifying the child's disability allowance is needed when claiming rights from other organizations, such as:

1. Disabled parking permits and licensing toll exemptions.
2. Employment of migrant workers.
3. Ministry of Welfare – Eligibility to rehabilitational daycare centers.
4. Discounts on Bezeq telephone bills.
5. Local Authority – Discounts on property taxes.
6. Income tax credits.
7. Electricity bill discounts – Applies only to persons with 5 points or more (out of 10), as determined by the Dependence Committee.
8. Water bill discounts.
9. Exemptions from queues and personal care assistance fees.

For further information, visit the National Insurance Institute's website at:

<http://www.btl.gov.il>

The rights of Disability Child Allowance recipients

Reduced Electricity Bill Payments

As of May, parents of children with ASD between 3 and 18 years old found to be eligible to 5 points or more by way of an NII dependence examination shall be eligible to reduced electricity bill payments, amounting to 50% of their total electricity consumption for the first 400 kilowatts/hour consumed every month for domestic purposes only.

Domestic water bill discount rate

As of July 1, 2012, every household is eligible for an addition of 3.5 cubic meters of water per month. This benefit is allocated for domestic consumers which reside at the billed property.

* Every citizen is eligible to receive 3.5 cubic meters of water per month at the low water tariff. This Benefit allows receiving an additional quota of 3.5 cubic meters of water per month at the low water tariff.

Who is eligible?

A child with autism eligible for a disabled child allowance.

National Insurance automatically forwards the details of the eligibility and there is no need to contact and actively seek the benefit that you are eligible for.

For every question this issue, please contact the water authority's hotline at:
072-2755440

Income Tax Credits

The Entitlement

The Israeli Income Tax Authority allocates two entitlement [credit] points to parents of a child on the autism spectrum, in accordance with clause 45 of the Income Tax Ordinance. This means a reduction in the amount of income tax to be paid. The value of credit points updates periodically in line with increases in the COL and index.

- The two credit points can be applied to the salary of one of the spouses, or be distributed between the spouses pursuant to their request.
- Divorced, separated or single parents are not regarded as spouses for this purposes. Therefore, each of them is entitled to two credit points under Section 45 of the Income Tax Ordinance.
- Important! There is no maximum amount that applies to the parent’s income for the purpose of receiving the two income tax credit points.
- The eligibility period for the credits is in accordance with the allowance eligibility period specified in the National Insurance Institute confirmation.

Important ! There is no ceiling to the income earned by a parent in order to receive the two credit points from the Income Tax Authority.

* The tax credit eligibility period corresponds to the eligibility period specified in the allowance certificate issued by the National Insurance Institute.

Who is Eligible?

Parents of special needs children who receive a disabled child’s allowance, who live in their parents’ home and are dependent on their parents.

Who do you contact?

Parents must apply to the Income Tax Assessor at the income tax offices in your area of residence, and submit the documentation required for receiving the credit points.

* Applicants must file a new application every year. You may ask the doctor or the National Insurance Institute for a document that certifies the existence of a permanent disability (that does not pass) and file a “multiannual approval application” (at times, this can be done even without the medical document).

Which forms must be submitted?

1. Form 127 – medical certification which must include medical details and a clear, precise diagnosis, and the date from which the diagnosis is valid. Only specialists (developmental physician / neurologist / psychiatrist) can complete this certificate.

2. Form 116A – request for taxation credit points for an incapacitated relative: parents need to fill this form out if they are salaried.
3. Certification of receipt of 100% allowance for the disabled child, from Bituach Leumi: this is not essential but very worthwhile.

Retroactive payment

Salaried parents are entitled to receive retroactive tax returns with the addition of interest and linkage for six years prior to the request date, or from the child's date of birth, or from the time of receipt of the diagnosis. Self-employed parents are entitled to receive retroactive tax returns for six years with the addition of interest and linkage but in actuality, because of the statute of limitations on financial reports, will receive up to four years value in retroactive payment.

You should take into consideration (especially if you are self-employed) that a retroactive reduction request to the tax authority will involve a thorough review of your tax file, and debts may be discovered that surpass the sum to which you are retroactively entitled.

In all cases, it is recommended that you consult with a taxation specialist before lodging a retroactive request.

VERY IMPORTANT !

- The tax ordinance relates to children with “paralysis, blindness and retardation”. In addition to the ordinance, the tax authorities hold several internal guidelines for allocating tax credit points to parents of children with ASD who receive a disability allowance.

Credit Points for a Child in an External Residence

Parents must advise the Income Tax Authority of this situation, and they may then be given a choice: to receive 2 credit points against their taxable income, or a tax credit of 35% for maintaining the child's external-residence needs.

Disabled Parking Permit and Exemption from Licensing Fee

A disabled person's parking permit allows parking in spaces designated for the disabled, and in places where parking may not generally be allowed under certain set by law (which chiefly relate to non-disruption of traffic flow). The disabled parking permit and the Ministry of Transport do not exempt from paying parking fees. However, a disabled person is exempt from payment in public places where the only access for the disabled person is by parking in a public place requiring payment.

Who is Eligible?

Parents whose children receive a disabled person's allowance of at least 60% disability, where transporting the child without a car may disrupt the child's health, and parents with children having disabled legs and requiring a wheelchair or vehicle as a means of conveyance.

At the end of 2010 the Ministry of Transportation introduced a new workflow procedure for the Disabled Parking Permits Committee, which includes autism as an explicit criterion, but this criterion does not apply automatically. Each request is examined on its merits and decisions are made accordingly.

Who Do I Contact?

The Regional Licensing Office in your area (or the Licensing Center in Ramla). Submit your request to the Unit for Limited Mobility, Update & Control Center, POB 72 Holon, 58100, or via fax 03-5027686. There is no need for you to go to the Licensing Office. You can receive further details via recorded or live assistance on 1-222-56-78 or *5678. Any questions / problems in this matter are to be referred to the Public Inquiries Licensing Office in Holon - Yaffa Sri yaffas@mot.gov.il

Forms that need to be submitted

The forms are available via the Licensing Bureau under "Motor Vehicle Licensing Forms".

1. Request for Disabled Person's Parking Permit, and Exemption from License Fee.
2. Original current medical documents, indicating the reasons, difficulties and needs (amount of supports and treatments) for which the permit is requested.
3. Photocopy of the ID of the person in whose name the vehicle is registered, including the tab on which the child's name is shown.
4. Photocopy of the vehicle license and driver's license.
5. Photocopy of a blank bank cheque (from your cheque book, showing all details, in order to receive the discount on licensing fee).
6. Bituach Leumi certification of receipt of allowance for disabled/mobility challenged child (copy of the Bituach Leumi medical panel protocol).
7. If the vehicle is not registered in the name of the person with the disability, documents must be shown that prove a relationship with the disabled person: photocopy of both parents' IDs, or ID of the vehicle owner with whom the child is registered, or a legal guardian's documentation.
8. If the vehicle is registered in the name of a person who is not a relative of the disabled person, a declaration signed before an attorney or the court of law must be added, showing that the vehicle owner has placed the vehicle permanently at the personal service of the disabled person.
9. If the vehicle is registered on a company name, a letter should be presented by the company on company logo/letterhead that the vehicle is permanently dedicated for the disabled person's use;
10. If the vehicle is registered with a rental/leasing company, a rental agreement must be provided.

Stages in handling the request

The documents received by the Ministry of Transport are forwarded to the Ministry's Licensing Department Physician. After reviewing them, the parking

permit will be mailed to the family's home address together with authorization for reduced licensing fee or a letter indicating a different response. The handling time for a parking permit request is approximately one month.

Important !

- In accordance with adjustment to the Disabled Persons' Parking Permit Law 5754-1993, you can now receive the parking permit for two cars if you can prove that both of the individuals requesting the permit transport the child.
- A vehicle that was or currently is registered in the name of a disabled person is exempt from Change of Ownership fee. The change of ownership is carried out without payment of any fee but in the Licensing Office only.
- A person who does not possess authorization of disability allowance and is not entitled to a reduced license fee can nonetheless request a Disabled Person's Parking Permit direct from the Licensing Department physician. The request must be submitted to the Licensing Office closest to you together with current medical documents. The request will be examined by the Licensing Office's physician and a response will be forwarded by the office.
- Any denial of request can be contested.

Licensing Fee Exemption

- The exemption is given to people entitled to a disabled persons' parking permit. The license fee for a disabled person updates periodically.
- Receiving a disabled persons' parking permit does not automatically mean you will receive a reduced licensing fee. Each request is examined separately by the Department's physician who has the right to authorize or reject the request for parking permit/reduced license fee.
- The right to pay a reduced licensing fee is given for one vehicle only, without the vehicle needing to be registered in the child's name.

- When registering a vehicle with a disabled persons' fee, you need to be sure no previous vehicle is registered and for which a disabled person's fee is being paid, or that the vehicle has been sold, or that the rate is different from the normal rate.

Retroactive payment

When a reduction in licensing fee has been authorized, you can request a proportional retroactive rebate. Complete the request form for rebate of driving license together with photocopy of a blank cheque, to the Unit for Unit for Limited Mobility, Update & Control Center, POB 72 Holon, 58100. **Note:** There is no obligatory procedure for providing authorization for parking permits and reduced licensing fee which is why there are differences between the various departments handling these issues.

The Disabled Persons' Parking Law can be viewed at:

<http://www.aisrael.org/Index.asp?ArticleID=1835&CategoryID=428&Page=1>

Exemptions from Queues and Personal Care Assistance Fees

On 25 October 2013, a series of regulations providing for the rendition of queue-free public services had entered into force. These regulations also stipulated that persons with disabilities will now be exempt from personal care assistance fees in public places.

Queue-free Public Services – Who Is Eligible?

* Children diagnosed with ASD who receive a disabled child allowance by virtue of their ASD.

* Please note – Queue-free public services shall not be rendered in places where the waiting takes place inside a vehicle (national parks, gas stations, etc.)

Following is a list of public services:

Exemptions from Personal Care Assistance Fees for Persons with ASD in Public Places – Who Is Eligible?

* Children 12 years of age or older who receive a disabled child allowance by virtue of their ASD.

Following is a list of public services

Please note – The exemption from personal care assistance fees in public places does not apply in places where the service being rendered entails individual services provided to the personal care assistant, such as separate seats, rooms, etc.

* The above specified rights may be exercised by presenting the new NII Disability Certificate specifying their Queue/Personal Care Assistance Fees Exemption on its back.

- NII will begin sending the new Certificates as of December 2013, and Certificate holders are not required to actively contact the NII in order to obtain them.

* For further information, please contact the Equal Rights for People with Disabilities Commission at 02-5088034

Bezeq Landline Discounts

The Entitlement

Reduction for Bezeq clients is provided under the auspices of the Ministry of Welfare and Labor.

- 50% reduction in fixed usage fee.
- Reduction in the number of meter units, equal to 60 meter units per month.
- 50% reduction on installation or relocation fee for the telephone line.

Who is Eligible?

Parents of children from birth up to the age of 18 years old who receive a 100% disability allowance.

The phone line must be registered in the name of the disabled child, alone or in addition to the parent/s name/s.

The reduction is given for the telephone line listed in the name of the person and at her/his fixed place of owned or rented residence.

Who Do I Contact?

Responsibility for activating and funding the reductions package in Bezeq belongs to the Ministry of Welfare. Contact the Ministry of Welfare Rehabilitation Department to receive the reduction, at 02-5085430, Mon-Wed, 8:30-12:00AM , Ms. Ahuva Robas. Send the appropriate form and documentation to: Ministry of Welfare Rehabilitation Department, POB 1260, Jerusalem 91012.

The procedure at the Ministry of Welfare may take some months, so please be patient.

Documentation required

1. Reduction request form.
2. Photocopy of the parent/s ID and the stub showing the disabled child's ID.
3. Photocopy of the most recent telephone bill.
4. Photocopy of authorization that the child receives a disability allowance.

5. If you are living in a rented home, attach a copy of the current rental contract.

Stages in handling the request

Parents who are considered entitled to receive the reduction will be mailed an authorization on a stamped form, which is to be taken to the Bezeq offices for receiving the reduction.

The Bezeq reduction will show in the account itself.

Important !

- The reduction begins on the date that the Ministry of Welfare forwards the request to Bezeq, and there is no retroactive rebate.
- Parents who have two children each with 100% disability are entitled to a doubled reduction. In any event, the reduction is for one phone line only.
- There is no official arrangement between other operators in Israel (Hot, Gold Lines) and the Ministry of Welfare.
- Pay attention to the validity of the Bituach Leumi authorization sent to the Ministry of Welfare. The Bezeq reduction is valid for as long as the disability authorization is valid. The moment that the Bituach Leumi authorization of the disability allowance ceases to be valid, the Bezeq reduction will also cease to be valid. Be sure to send a request to the Ministry of Welfare to renew the reduction; if you do not send the request, your reduction will stop and you will not be able to collect retroactively.

Bezeq regulations can be found at:

<http://www.moc.gov.il/new/documents/legislation/B-5.pdf>

Municipal Taxes [“Arnona”]

The Entitlement

Recommendations exist relevant to municipalities to provide a reduction in municipal taxes (in accordance with State Collective Ordinances – Reduced Municipal Taxes – 5753-1993). The scope of reduction is decided by each local or municipal council and will therefore vary from one area to another. The Interior Ministry regulations require that every council operate a “municipal tax reductions committee” whose role is to examine entitlement of its residents to various reductions and authorize them in accordance with criteria set by law.

Who is Eligible?

Parents of a child up to 18 years old, who is disabled/impaired and receives a Bituach Leumi disability allowance. The **maximum** reduction for a disabled child is 33% for up to 100 sq.m.

Who Do I Contact?

Request the Municipal Tax Reduction Form from the Municipality Collection Department at your local council, and submit it together with Bituach Leumi authorization that the child receives a disability allowance.

- The reduction is not given automatically, and every request is handled separately.
- You can apply for a higher discount rate on the basis of need (according to income level test and the number of persons living at home). The disability rate to which the child is eligible will not be calculated into the test.

Purchase Tax

The Entitlement

According to Lands Improvement Ordinance (Purchase Tax) 1974, you can receive a reduction in purchase tax when buying a home for children with 100% medical disability.

It is important to note that this is not the 100% Child with Disabilities Allowance to which the child is entitled owing to the diagnosis, but rather a 100% medical disability. The medical disability percentage is determined based on the severity of the disability.

Please note: the criteria for receiving the discount are stringent, and in our experience only a few individuals have managed to receive the discount.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact the Land Taxation Department at 02-6559262

or at 1800222337

How to utilize your eligibility:

Please send a request letter specifying the family's need to move to an apartment that is suitable for the child's needs and include an Partial Exemption from Purchase Tax Application Form and a Declaration of Property Right Purchase Form.

Please add a confirmation by the National Insurance Institute that certifies the receipt of a Child with Disabilities Allowance.

The letter and the documents must be sent by mail or fax to: "Land Taxation - Central Branch"

Postal Address: 5 Kanfei Hanesharim Street, POB 1170 Jerusalem Postal Code 91010

Fax: 02-6559404

Who Do I Contact?

A letter detailing why the family needs to move to a home more suited to the disabled child's needs, and the Bituach Leumi authorization of disability allowance, should be sent by fax: 02-6559404 or mailed to Lands Taxes, Central Bureau, 5 Kanfei Nesharim Street, POB 1170 Jerusalem, 91010.

We recommend initially inquiring about purchase tax at 02-6559262 or 1-800-222-337.

Treatment at HMOs

Treatment at Health Funds

Diagnosis

The Entitlement

In accordance with the [Amendment Number 2 to the National Health Insurance Law](#), the diagnosis of children with ASD and the entire variety of developmental treatments are under the HMO's responsibility, from the time of diagnosis and until the age of 18.

Diagnoses shall be conducted in accordance with the Ministry of Health Director-[General Circular](#). In case of rediagnosis or periodical diagnosis – It is not required to perform an additional psychological diagnosis as a medical diagnosis would be sufficient.

Who is Eligible?

Children up to 18 years of age who in the opinion of their parents or professional caregivers exhibit early signs of autism.

Who Do I Contact?

Contact your local HMO secretariat or seek the assistance of pediatric development institutes.

Parents may contact private healthcare professionals accredited by the Ministry of Health, who may perform their own privately-funded diagnoses.

Paramedical Treatments

Entitlement

According to Amendments 43 and 48 to the National Health Insurance Law, children with ASD are entitled to 3 paramedical treatments per week throughout the year at every Israeli HMO, or to a refund of their private treatment expenses.

The treatments are

Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, psychological treatment and social work. As of 2010, children are eligible to three weekly treatments throughout the year.

As of 1 January 2012, it has been decided that HMOs are required to provide treatment without delay. Should the HMO not have a professional caregiver capable of providing such treatment **within a reasonable amount of time**, the parent may refer to a private healthcare professional and obtain a refund covering their expenses.

Continuous Treatment

The principle of providing continuous treatment for children on the autism spectrum will apply in the following cases:

A. Treatment is already provided to the child by a caregiver with the Health Maintenance Organization. In such cases, the Health Maintenance Organization cannot replace the caregiver and transfer the child to another caregiver on budgetary grounds.

B. Treatment is provided to the child by a private caregiver, and given that the Health Maintenance Organization was unable to provide the child with an appointment within the period of time required by law (three or four months, as the case may be).

In such cases, even if the Health Maintenance Organization is able to offer the child a caregiver within the legally-required period of time at a later juncture, the parents may continue the treatment provided by the private caregiver.

The refund given to parents who make use of private healthcare professionals shall amount to the rates set forth by the Ministry of Health, subject to the submission of valid receipts, and on the condition that the caregiver has been preapproved by the HMO, as stipulated below:

- A. Social work – 153 NIS
- B. Speech therapy – 200 NIS
- C. Occupational therapy – 200 NIS

D. Physical therapy – 217 NIS

E. Psychological treatment – 242 NIS

For **each treatment given**, the parents shall bear a deductible payment amounting to 29 NIS.

Exemptions from deductible payments for paramedical treatment will be granted to:

A. Children with ASD up to 3 years of age.

B. Children with ASD up to 18 years of age whose either parent receives unemployment benefits.

Who is Entitled

Children with ASD from the time of diagnosis until the age of 18 who have not exercised their right to health treatment at rehabilitative daycare centers, communication kindergartens or treatment centers.

It should be stressed that treatments given in educational facilities that are not defined as facilitating healthcare shall not replace the treatments provided by virtue of the National Health Insurance Law, and children will continue being eligible to such treatments.

Who Do I Contact?

Contact your local HMO secretariat or seek the assistance of pediatric development institutes.

Exemptions from Deductible Payments

Children receiving NII disabled child allowances are exempt from HMO deductible payments when seeking the following forms of treatment:

1. Visits to primary care physicians (GPs, family doctors, pediatricians, internal medicine, gynecology).
2. Visits to secondary care physicians (communal medical experts).
3. Outpatient clinic visitations.
4. Institutes (imaging, diagnostics, and others).

Instructions on applications and explanations regarding the services rendered to children with ASD at various HMOs:

Clalit Health Services

http://www.clalit.co.il/HE-IL/Family/parents/Autism/articles/rights_of_autistic_children.html

Meuhedet:

<https://www.meuhedet.co.il/meuhedet/views/engine?idorItemId=topMenu&templateName=menu.txt&templateKey=&mainView=article&mainId=1272270971969>

Maccabi Healthcare Services:

<http://www.maccabi4u.co.il/4787-he/Maccabi.aspx>

Leumit:

<http://www.leumit.co.il/heb/Life/Children/ASD/articlegalleryitem,7/>

Amendment to the National Health Insurance Law

http://fs.knesset.gov.il//17/law/17_lsr_300086.pdf

Amendment 48, which adds eligibility to social work and psychological treatment:

http://fs.knesset.gov.il//18/law/18_lsr_301112.pdf

*** In addition, it is recommended that you examine the complementary and nursing insurance policies offered by different HMOs and inquire as to your rights to subsidization and medical expenses coverage.**

Dental Treatment under Anesthesia Entitlement

According to the second amendment to the National Health Insurance Law and the Medical Administration Circular, children and adults with ASD are entitled to dental treatment under full anesthesia. Dental treatment under full anesthesia is carried out by dentists (at HMOs and clinics) according to the regulations set forth by the Ministry of Health Dental Healthcare Division. As a rule, full anesthesia is not required for dental treatment, and may be used only when no other form of anesthesia is possible for the patient.

It should be noted that the dental treatments themselves are not covered by the amendment.

How to utilize your eligibility:

Please contact the Insured's clinic to receive more details.

*Please note: If you wish to receive treatment at a hospital, you must make sure to obtain a Form No. 17 in advance.

Supporting and alternative communication devices for people with disabilities

The right granted:

As of 2015, the Health Basket includes supporting and alternative communication computers. The computer is intended for people who are unable to engage in verbal communication and to make use of voice output / photo tables / tablets for communication purposes, and whom the communication computers would enable to engage in efficient communication.

Requisite Documents:

A. Medical documents from the attending or another physician, which include an accurate diagnosis and relevant medical information.

B. Functional report of the referring speech therapist (a referring speech therapist is a speech therapist working on behalf of the insuring health maintenance organization. However, it is also possible to obtain a report from a speech therapist who belongs to other facilities such as hospitals, rehabilitation programs and educational programs).

The application must be sent to the "National Unit for Rehabilitation and Mobility Devices" at nayadut@moh.health.gov.il Fax: 02-5655985, Postal Address: National Unit for Rehabilitation and Mobility Devices, 15 Noah Moses Street, Tel Aviv.

For consultation and assistance regarding HMOs, please contact the ALUT Family Center located near your place of residence.

Ministry of Welfare

The Service for Treatment of Persons with Autism

The Service for Treatment of Persons with Autism, which is part of the Ministry of Welfare, is responsible for providing services within the community or through external residential institutions, for children and adults diagnosed with ASD.

Only persons recognized by the Service are entitled to receive its services, even when these are provided by external parties such as ALUT.

The Entitlement

Provision of services to children diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum (ASD).

Who Do I Contact?

Apply to the social worker in the social services department of your area, who will apply in your name to the Service.

Criteria for recognition by the Service

1. An authorized, explained diagnosis is required that complies with the following conditions:
 - The Service recognizes diagnoses performed by the following professionals: psychiatrist, neurologist (specializing in children and youth for individuals under 18 years old), and clinical/developmental psychologist. Preference is shown to a diagnosis conducted by a multifaceted professional teams such as in the framework of a Child Developmental Institute, department or mental health center.
 - The professionals who carry out the diagnosis must make use of the conventional tools with which autism is diagnosed, specify the diagnostic tools used and rely upon the criteria and severity levels of autism as found in the DSM 5.

- Should more than one diagnosis exist (e.g.: autism and mental retardation) the details for each diagnosis must be attached together with a summarizing integrative discussion concerning the individual's status.

When the diagnosis is not unequivocal, the Service may wish to send the individual for a separate diagnosis of its own, and this process may take some months.

Any request for recognition by the Service, irrelevant to the age of the individual, must include the following material:

- Description of the initial psycho-motor development, relating especially to points indicating development of the disorder, any developmental milestones, and the age of the child when these occurred.
- Description of the previous and current psychological and behavioral states, including particularly problematic phenomena (such as tics, obsessive behaviors, violence towards self or others, self-stimulation, anxiety, phobias, and so on) as well as strong points (such as specific spheres of interest, modes of communication and creating contact, unique skills, curiosity and investigative interests, ability to learn, ability to accept boundaries, etc.)
- Description of treatments received by the child in the past and currently, and relating to how effective each was/is, and the need for further treatments.
- Education background, and a current educational-functional report.
- Current medical report.
- Current social report.

The Service's responses are sent direct to the social worker in the social services department.

Important ! Recognition is given temporarily until the age of 6 years old. At the end of this period, updated diagnosis and educational/functional reports must be lodged in order to renew for a further period.

Families recognized by the Service are entitled to receive the following:

1. Day care (rehabilitative day center) for children up to the age of 3 years old. These centers design and implement personal programs suited to each child individually, to promote development of skills and improve functioning. These frameworks are activated by ALUT and other organizations. Information on current frameworks can be found on the ALUT site: www.alut.org.il and on the Ministry of Welfare site www.molsa.gov.il

2. Integrative periods for infant from 1 to 3 years old, in private day care centers under Ministry of Industry, Trade & Employment supervision, or public centers under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Industry, Trade & Employment.

3. Application for consultation and treatment of sexual problems.

Services given in accordance with budgeting:

4. Support care-givers – for children aged 3 years and up. Assistance for funding a supporting care-giver in the family's home, for several afternoon hours. Receiving support care-giver funding depends on the family's status (determined by income test) and the status of the individual child. Parents must participate in covering the care-giver costs.

5. "Keitanah" - Day camps for children during summer holidays and festival vacations: the camps are adjusted only to children on the spectrum. The day camp is on a day by day basis and does not include sleeping over.

Children aged 3 to 21 years old are entitled to day camps three times per year, each time for 4-5 days. To take advantage of this right, approach the Welfare Department social worker and ask for the Placement Decision Form ["Tofess hakhlatah al hassamah"], and the Framework Placement Form ["Tofess hasamah lamisgeret"].

Please note: students who are diagnosed on the autism spectrum that are integrated into regular educational programs are entitled to subsidized participation in regular summer camps operated by the local authorities in the summer, or in summer camps that were awarded the tender held by the Ministry of Welfare.

6. “Mo'adonit” - Afternoon leisure clubs: an educational treatment framework that operates during the afternoon hours and provides individual and group therapy to improve social skills. Currently the number of afternoon leisure clubs available is extremely limited.

7. External Residential Solutions

8. “Nofshon” – [holiday center for families with special needs] an away-from-home framework for short term stays, in places specifically adapted and available particularly during weekends and vacation periods. The entitled individual may receive 15 days annually: entitled days cannot be accrued.

Important ! A child receiving supportive care-giver benefits cannot simultaneously join a Mo'adonit and vice versa.

Links to Social Work Regulations circulars:

Services available in the community for individuals with autism/PDD who live at home: <http://www.molsa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/20E24FC7-C2FA-4C8C-AAFD-1611B1B05756/10254/104.pdf> - Chapter 10 - Treatment of Persons with ASD

Law governing Sick Leave / Absenteeism from place of Employment due to Child Support or Illness

Due to the nature of the impairment, a disabled child will often need supervision or personal care assistance, such as to treatment or special services, paramedical care or other assistive support, and medical visits and follow-ups. For this reason, parents of children with disabilities are often required to absent themselves from their place of employment. To balance employer / employee needs, the Law Governing Sick Leave (Absenteeism due to Child's Illness) 5753-1993, Clause 1b, states that:

(A) A disabled child's parent who has worked for at least one year in the same place of employment is entitled to receive up to 18 days annually for absences in order to provide personal assistance to a disability-diagnosed child and requiring parental absence from the workplace. These days can be offset against the parent's own sick leave days or annual vacation, as the parent chooses.

(B) The parent is entitled to a further 18 days to cover these absences as long as no one else (the other parent) has taken advantage of them as absences to provide assistance, under the following conditions:

- The spouse works and has not absented her or himself from the workplace for the purpose of child supervision and personal care assistance.
- The spouse is self-employed and has not been absent from her or his place of work in order to supervise and/or escort the child.
- The parent is single-parenting.
- The disabled child is in sole custody of the single parent.

(C) The parent may also choose to be partially absent on some work days. Under such circumstances, the absence of the parent will be calculated on an hourly basis.

1. (D) An employee may use their sick leave days in order to assist their children, beginning from their first day of absence. Such payment also includes partial

absences, and, under such circumstances, the absence is calculated on an hourly basis.

2. (E) The parent is entitled to 52 more hours per year (if employed full-time, and on a *pro rata* basis if less), which are added to their sick leave days as provided by law. These annual leave hours can only be used for the purpose of assisting the child. Unused special sick leave days may not be accumulated. Such days may also be used on an hourly basis, beginning from the first day of absence. If the parent is a single-parent or if their spouse has not used their special sick leave days, the employee may also use special leave days not used by their spouse based on the extent of their employment.

Authorization to Employ a Foreign Worker

The Entitlement

Employment of a foreign worker to care for the child.

Who is Eligible?

Families that receive a disabled child's allowance are entitled to submit a permit request to employ a foreign worker as the child's care-giver.

The employment permit will be given on the proviso that sufficient proof exists, in the view of the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Support Unit that **one** of the following conditions is upheld:

- The child is in an educational framework that conditions attendance on being accompanied by a care-giver for providing the child with physical assistance.
- The child requires constant personal care assistance or supervision throughout most hours of the day due to the disability, and cannot attend an educational/therapeutic/afterschool framework.
- Other special medical circumstances exist that require daily constant and consistent care while the child is at home (such as special care during the night hours). This is the clause that determines the entitlement of a family with an autism spectrum child.

The permit is given for a period, at the end of which it must be renewed.

Who Do I Contact?

Foreign worker permits are handled by the Interior Ministry's Bureau of Immigration, Population and Border Passes Authority. To register at the bureau, both the employer and employee must make contact with one of the private, certified organizations and sign a form requesting registration with the Bureau. The organization will forward a placement letter to both employer and employee, certifying that they have been registered with the Bureau in accordance with the law, and details will be conveyed to the Interior Ministry's Immigration Department. It will examine the details provided and advise the Bureau, usually

within 7 days, if it authorizes the employment. The department will forward the Bureau's answer to the employer and employee.

You can hear recorded information on the National Information Line, Assistance Permits Department: dial 1-700-707-147.

How to submit a request to employ a foreign worker

1. Complete the following four forms:

- i) Request to receive permit to employ foreign worker, or extend current permit
 - ii) Employer's agreement
 - iii) Waiver of Medical Discretion
 - iv) Parental Declaration signed before an attorney
- Also attach current medical opinion from the physician treating the child (the physician needs to stress that the child requires constant supervision).
 - Ministry of Welfare opinion report – Social Report; prepared by the family's social worker and detailing the child's difficulties and need for assistance.
 - Medical report of the Bituach Leumi disabled child allowance panel.

2. The following documents must also be attached to every request:

- Payment slip showing payment of fee in the sum of NIS. 285.49. A request submitted without the payment certification will be returned to the applicant.
- Photocopy of ID and stub of the disabled person (and of the "employer" if the disabled person cannot fulfill his commitment as the employer of a foreign worker).
- If the disabled person is under guardianship, attach certification of legal guardianship.

3. When requesting extension of an existing permit, also attach:

- Photocopy of the visa of the foreign worker employed in accordance with the permit (from the passport).

Important ! Information following changes to the employment method

- A private organization is not entitled to charge the employing parent/s or employee any fee whatever for registration only. The organization is entitled to charge the employer NIS.70 per month for services it must provide, including: quarterly visits, assistance in solving employment problems, assistance in arranging insurance, and extending permits and visas, etc.
- The organization is entitled to charge NIS.2000- from the employer when the organization acts as an agent/placement service for a new foreign worker.
- If the employer discharged the employee or the employee left the employer, the employer must advise the organization.
- If the employer has employed a new worker, a new placement letter must be received from the organization.
- A work permit cannot be extended if both employer and employee have not been registered as noted above.

Additional information and a list of private organizations can be found at:

<http://www.piba.gov.il/Subject/ForeignWorkers/Forms/Pages/BakashaLeasakatOvedZar.aspx>

Transportation and Personal Care Assistance

According to the Law for Safe Transportation of Children and Infants with Impairments, children aged 3 years to 21 years with ASD are entitled to be transported from their home to school and back. The transportation is provided in accordance with the child's needs and taking into consideration the type of limitation.

Who is entitled to safe transportation?

1. Every child with a disability: that is, anyone aged 3 years up to 21 years who, due to physical, mental, psychological or behavioral deficiency, cannot travel on his or her own and requires transportation.
2. Infants from the age of 6 months up to 3 years, who receive a disabled child allowance.
3. Infants with autism at rehabilitative day care centers. Safe (rules for transportation and accompaniment of infants to and from rehabilitative day care centers). These regulations govern, for the first time, the practice of providing safe transportation services for children and infants with disabilities to and from rehabilitative day care centers, and set rules that address the safety of each ride, the role of the children's companion and driver, their mandatory training requirements, the companion's employment by the authority rather than the transportation company, the employment of an officer with the local authority who will be responsible for the ride and companion services, the maximum number of children in each vehicle, prohibition against riding with children over six years of age, and more.

The municipality placement committee determines entitlement to safe transportation. In accordance with the Ministry of Education Director's Circular, students who fill the criteria of ASD are entitled to safe transportation even without the placement committee authorization. However, this is conditional on receive authorization from the relevant professional for each type of disability.

These children are also entitled to escort irrespective of the distance from their homes.

Who is responsible for transportation and personal care assistance?

The law states that the municipality is responsible both for organizing and funding transportation for children living in its area of jurisdiction, and is further responsible for solving all problems connected with transportation and personal care assistance. Note that the entitlement to transportation and personal care assistance applies throughout the school year.

Even when the child is sent to an educational institution outside the family's area of residence, the responsibility for transport and personal care assistance belongs to the council pertinent to the child's address.

Entitlement to Personal Care Assistance

According to the Law for Safe Transportation of Children and Infants with Impairments (general and tested as entitled to transportation and escort), a child determined by the placement committee as having ASD is entitled to be escorted by another adult, in addition to the driver. The escort is to be employed by the municipality, unless that escort is a volunteer authorized by a public authority. In any instance of a dispute with the municipality over escort entitlement, you are entitled to demand a check by the Exceptions Committee. The municipality should apply to the Regional Transportation Department with all the required certification; the department will transfer the request to the Exceptions Committee which convenes in Jerusalem monthly.

Safe Transportation – Conditions

- The transportation must coordinate with the official hours of the educational institution. The official commencement of studies is 8 a.m. (08:00). The end of the study day is at least 2.30 p.m. (14:30) Sundays to Thursdays inclusive, and 11.50 a.m. on Fridays. Classes for children with ASD end at 4.45 (16:45) at least from Sunday to Thursday inclusive, and 12.45 at least on Fridays.
- Entitlement to transportation is also applicable for authorized activity days during the summer recess and festival vacations. Furthermore, the entitlement to

transportation includes the right to be transported to additional studies which constitute an inseparable part of the overall study program.

- The distance justifying participation in costs of transportation for children with other disabilities is more than 2 km for children up to and including Grade 4, and over 3 km for children of Grade 5 and up. Transportation to a kindergarten that is more than 25 km away, or a school more than 35 km away, requires written authorization of the scheduling staff, including the manager of the local education system and supervisor of special education in that same municipality.
- Pick-up and return: in any event, one return trip will be authorized. If there is a large number of students, it may be possible to split the return trips. More than two return trips will not be authorized for any one special needs school.
- Usually there is no entitlement to transportation from the after-school Moadonit or afternoon child-care facility (Tzaharon), even if it is conducted in the school, because these programs are under the auspices of Welfare and not part of the Ministry of Education allocated hours. Additionally, the Ministry of Education does not fund transportation for physically disabled students and special education students to medical, paramedical, rehabilitation or other treatments.
- If ALL the parents leave their children in school for after-school activities, it is possible to request that the allocated transportation services arrive when these additional activities have ended, but the transportation coordinator is not obligated to cooperate.

Transportation Vehicle Safety

The municipality or local council is responsible for ensuring the safety of the transportation vehicle, as well as its suitability in accordance with the Minister of Transport's regulation for conveying infants and children with disabilities. Regulations include special adaptations to the vehicle such as a chair-lift, means of securing wheelchairs to the vehicle's floor, or any other assistive equipment as

required. At the start of the school year, it is worth checking that the vehicle holds certification that it is qualified for transporting infants and children with disabilities, as required by the regulations.

Important ! If an infant needs a safety seat, the parent or person responsible for that infant must provide it.

Services to Follow Through the Cycle of Life

Infants (1 to 3 years old)

Rehabilitative Day Care Nursery

The Rehabilitative Day Care Nursery Law of 2000 governs the rights of infants with disabilities, including autism, to education and care in designated daytime frameworks. The infants are cared for by professional, skilled staff and a personal educational program is prepared for each child's needs and capabilities. In the day care program infants receive the treatment quota funded by the Ministry of Health, including 14 hours weekly of direct and indirect paramedical treatment such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychotherapy and so on. To receive this entitlement, approach the Ministry of Welfare office in your municipality or local council. (If your child is not yet registered with the Ministry of Welfare services as a child with ASD, you will need to undergo the relevant process – see Booklet of Entitlements, p. 10)).

You can find details of these frameworks on the ALUT site at www.alut.org.il

Individual integration in regular daycare centers

Your infant escorted by an assistant may be able to attend a regular public or private day care program under Ministry of Education supervision. You need to check with the kindergarten manager if the kindergarten holds Ministry of Education certification. To benefit from this entitlement, approach the Ministry of Welfare offices in the municipality or local council.

Kindergarten (preschoolers from the age of compulsory education)

In the framework of the Special Education Law, several options become available to the ASD child:

Communication Kindergarten

This type of kindergarten is intended for children diagnosed with autism. The number of children attending this kindergarten normally ranges between 5 and 8. Kindergarten attendance begins on 1 September each year and concludes on 15 August the following year. The kindergarten tends to children until 4:45 in

the afternoon, and kindergarten children enjoy additional benefits such as meals, transportation, personal care assistance, paramedical treatments equal to 3.4 weekly hours approved by the Ministry of Education, and so on.

In addition to the treatment hours provided by the Ministry of Education, the “Facilitating Health Basket” applies to some of the communication gardens, which includes 14 weekly hours of direct and indirect paramedical treatments such as: speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychological therapy, and more.

Therapeutic Kindergarten

This type of kindergarten is intended for children aged 3 years and up with various developmental setbacks. The kindergarten may be able to cope with several types of impediments, or be focused on handling a specific sphere. The number of children attending such a kindergarten is from 14 to 18. The staff includes a special needs kindergarten teacher, an assistant, and various therapists. Local councils must allocate to every therapeutic kindergarten in its area of jurisdiction several psychologist’s hours from the local council’s Educational Psychology Services. Many kindergartens also offer integrative programs with regular kindergartens, ranging from several weekly hours up to one or two full days per week.

“Sfati” [language] Kindergartens

A special preschool therapeutic kindergarten for children aged 3 years and up who show developmental impediments in communication, usually related to language development.

Inclusion Kindergarten

This kindergarten is for children aged 5 and up, and integrates normative and special education children. The maximum number of children is 30, of which up to 10 can be special needs children, but these are usually children with behavioral issues and developmental issues of various kinds. The kindergarten staff

includes 2 kindergarten teachers, one for regular preschoolers and one for special education needs, and an assistant.

To benefit from this entitlement approach the Ministry of Education department at your local council and request an appointment with the Special Education Placement Committee.

You can find details of these frameworks on the ALUT site at www.alut.org.il

Individual integration in a regular kindergarten

Children of compulsory education age are entitled to be integrated individually in a regular kindergarten. The person responsible for guiding the integration, in addition to the kindergarten teacher, is the integrations coordinator who accompanies the children for between 7 to 30 hours weekly, relative to each one's level of functioning. In addition, every integrated child is entitled to an integration package that includes corrective teaching, creative and expressive therapy, paramedical treatments, instruction by the treatment staff, and more. It is important to note that currently, children in the 3-4 year age bracket also benefit from integration, based on special budgets allocated specifically by the Minister of Education.

Primary School Children and Adolescents

In the framework of the Special Education Law, the ASD child can choose from several options:

School for Children with ASD

This is a special education school for children diagnosed with ASD. The School for Autism has a minimum of four classes, with 5 to 8 children in each class.

The class staff is comprised of a special education teacher and an assistant.

Some schools cover students from age 6 to 21; others are only primary schools, or only high schools. The academic year opens on September 1 and continues to August 15. Schools operate an extended study day until 16:45, and children

enjoy additional benefits such as meals, transportation, transport escort, paramedical treatments of some 2.9 weekly Ministry of Education hours, and more.

Note that a student can attend a special needs school only if the Placement Committee has determined that the child is entitled to special education.

You can find details of these frameworks on the ALUT site at www.alut.org.il

Communication Class

The special education class in regular schools is designed for students diagnosed with ASD. Each class has up to 8 students. The educational staff is comprised of a special education teacher and a teaching assistant. The academic year begins on 27 August. In primary schools, the academic year ends on 10 August. In secondary and high schools, the school can select either of the following two models:

1. The academic year shall continue until 31 July.
2. The academic shall continue until 10 August, with a vacation period between 21-31 July. The communication class tends to children until 4:45 in the afternoon, and the children enjoy additional benefits such as meals, transportation, personal care assistance, paramedical treatments equal to 2.9 weekly hours approved by the Ministry of Education, and so on. Each communication class student has a personal curriculum designed for them at the beginning of each year. In order to exercise this right, please contact your local Ministry of Education office and request that a Placement Commission be convened.

Individual Integration in a regular school

This program integrates the children with regular classes. The person responsible for guiding the integration, in addition to the class teacher, is the integrations coordinator who accompanies the children for between 7 to 30 hours

weekly, relative to each one's level of functioning. In addition, every integrated child is entitled to an integration package that includes corrective teaching, creative and expressive therapy, paramedical treatments, instruction by the treatment staff, and more.

To receive this entitlement: after registering your child at a school, approach the school head and request a hearing with the Placement Committee.

For more information on integration rights please contact the ALUT Family Center.

Leisure Time Frameworks

- After-school hours "Mo'adonit" leisure activities program
- Social skills groups
- Afternoon hours assistant
- "Nofshon" – vacation programs
- "Keitanah" – day camps.

For Adults Aged 21 and Up
Residential Living

The “Home for Life” is a home positioned in a residential neighborhood that allows its residents to conduct their lives as similarly as life in a family could be, and with community involvement. The nature of the home preserves its residents’ self-respect and takes into consideration each person’s character, needs and wishes.

To benefit from this entitlement contact the local council’s Ministry of Welfare offices.

Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Autism

The employment center seeks to provide opportunities appropriate to the special needs of individuals with autism in the rehabilitative-employment sphere, adapting each person’s work program to her/his personal potential, needs and talents, and therapeutically supported by professionals in the field of autism. The center serves as a regular workplace, training the employees according to their capabilities.

To benefit from this entitlement contact the local council’s Ministry of Welfare offices.

For more details about the employment framework check ALUT’s site at www.alut.org.il or the Adults Rights booklet, or contact the ALUT Family Center.

Index of Forms

Form	Sphere of responsibility	Download from:
Disabled Child Claim	Bituach Leumi [National Insurance Institution]	Bituach Leumi site: www.btl.gov.il The Form
A request for dependency on others allowance	National Insurance	The Form
Income Tax Credit Points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form 116A – Request for Tax Credit for Dependent Relative • Form 127 “Medical Certificate” 	Income Tax	Taxation Authority site: http://www.finance.gov.il Forms at: http://www.finance.gov.il/taxes Choose: Forms > Income Tax > Form No. by listing
Request for Disabled Person’s Parking Sticker & License Fee Exemption	Ministry of Transport, Dept. of Licensing & Transport-ation	Ministry of Transport site: The Form
Request to reimburse Vehicle License Fee		
Request for Bezeq Telephone Company discount	Ministry of Welfare	The Form
Request for Permit to Employ Foreign Worker	Interior Ministry: Population & Immigration Authority	The Form