



# Eshkol Sheltered Children's Educational Activity Room

## Background

Eshkol Regional Council lies on the border triangle of Egypt, Israel and Gaza, sharing 40km of border with the latter. Despite the various security challenges, the communities of Eshkol continue to grow demographically, with many young families choosing to move there to raise their families.

One of the most important tools to overcoming trauma and stress is a strong sense of belonging and knowing you are not alone, which is why Eshkol invests many resources to encourage citizens to gather in sheltered areas for respite. Unfortunately, several communities in the Eshkol region do not have access to sheltered gathering spaces.

The most vulnerable population in the Eshkol region is young families. In recent years, the security measures implemented during times of escalation do not allow schools to operate, leaving children and parents isolated at home for several days, ultimately weakening the young families' resilience.

With the population of children in Eshkol growing, the need for a proper safe room for these children is apparent, and demand for a Gymboree specifically.

## Project Need

The Eshkol Regional Council plans to create a sheltered, educational room, or Gymboree, for these young families. The Gymboree will be a safe haven, bringing respite and calm to the children, while allowing them to be active, and enjoy the many games the room will be equipped with.

The Gymboree to be built in Eshkol will additionally allow parents to get together and support each other in times of escalation. Currently the closest Gymboree facility requires parents to drive 40 minutes to Sderot. This sheltered Gymboree room will improve the quality of life of many young families.

The project will include 60 square meters of sheltered room equipped with Gymboree apparatus, safety mattress surfaces, games space and arts and crafts space, but most importantly it will provide a pleasant environment for the children and parents to be together and grow as a strong vibrant community.

The Gymboree can be transformed into an educational room during times of crisis so the children can continue their studies without interruption.

Your Donation CAD\$	Regional Match CAD\$	Total Cost CAD\$
137,500	137,500	275,000

