

# Transforming the School Experience with Time To Know®

## Success Story

### School Profile

Modi'im is an inner-city public elementary school located in an underprivileged neighborhood of Tel-Aviv, Israel. The school's 200 students come from a variety of backgrounds. The majority are either from low-income families, immigrants from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union, or students who live in state-run group homes where they have been placed by court order. The school employs around 20 experienced teachers.

The principal, Shoshi Priel, arrived in this challenging environment 18 years ago. She was driven by a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of her students, but the reality she encountered was harsh. According to Priel, "Our major goal was getting the students to sit still in class. We didn't even think of asking them to read."

### A New Beginning

Although the situation improved somewhat over the years, students continued to perform poorly until about two years ago, when Modi'im School decided it had to find a new way to address its challenges and improve student performance. The school decided to use Time To Know as the primary instructional platform for math/geometry and for reading/language arts in both Hebrew and English.

The impact was immediate. "When the school adopted the Time To Know program, suddenly academic work became relevant and interesting to the children, and the teachers began to expect academic achievement. Before Time To Know, we never managed to address instruction and learning in a meaningful way," said Priel.

### Impact on Teachers

Teachers at Modi'im School have enjoyed a significant improvement in their self-esteem and job satisfaction. Time To Know puts teachers firmly at the center of instruction and learning and empowers them in a variety of ways, with guidance from instructional coaches and a sophisticated toolset for planning, collaboration, assessment, and classroom management.

According to the principal, "Suddenly the teachers' self-esteem improved, and this changed everything. The children and the parents began to look at the teachers differently, which greatly affected the children's attitude to school work."



"Before Time To Know, we never managed to address teaching and learning in a meaningful way."

Shoshi Priel, Principal

Teachers report that the school atmosphere is improved and that this has led to fewer discipline issues. The staff attributes this change to a new level of student engagement, as well as to the personalized learning approach of Time To Know, which allows them to address a wide range of student needs and abilities.

In the words of math teacher Rachel Meshulem, "Discipline problems during class have diminished. In a regular class I had difficulty getting 35 students to focus on their work, but the minute they saw Time To Know on the computer, it worked like magic." Adds math teacher Malka Cohen, "I now feel that I have the means to address the needs of all the children, and I simply enjoy teaching."



## Impact on Students

The most dramatic change, according to the staff, has been in the children. Students have undergone a personal transformation after experiencing success often for the first time. The outcome has been a more positive self-image, more independent learning, increased motivation, greater enjoyment of core subjects, and improved academic performance for every child.

Priel described one such transformation. "There is an amazing story about a student named Adam. Most of his family is in jail, and he had serious discipline issues. Then Time To Know arrived, and he became enchanted with the program. Two years later he is a class leader in every respect. He has realized that he can achieve, and he receives positive feedback again and again."

In Adam's words, "I didn't like anything about school, so I would make a mess of everything, and I didn't do my work. With Time To Know I like schoolwork and I like the computer. The subject I like most now is language arts, because I am learning how to speak and how to convince people. Now, in our group home, I can speak up for myself and my brother and tell them what we need. This can serve me all my life."

Another student, Sarah, was talented but bored and performing below her ability level. Her attitude toward school has changed, and her academic performance has greatly improved. In Sarah's words, "It's a good feeling to study with a laptop computer, and if you don't understand something you can hear it again. I understand it my way, in my imagination."

## Impact on Academic Achievement

The Szold Institute, the Israeli National Institute for Research in the Behavioral Sciences, conducted a two-year independent study to evaluate the outcome of the Time To Know program on key criteria, including student achievement.

When Modi'im was compared to two schools with similar student demographics, the figures demonstrated a statistically significant change in

student achievement as well as improved higher order thinking skills.

## Grade Improvement at Modi'im Outperforms Comparison School

Average Grade Difference between Start and End of Year 2008-2009 School Year

School	Reading/ Language Arts	Math	Geometry	English
Comparison School	3	21	11	13
Modi'im School	18	29	21	32

## The Big Picture

Several Israeli schools have implemented the Time To Know solution. The positive changes across all dimensions at Modi'im School are impact of Time To Know has been validated by comprehensive research studies.

The Time To Know digital teaching platform with core curriculum provides a holistic classroom solution, improves teaching quality, and engages students, leading to empowered students, an improved learning environment, and higher academic achievement.

*Students' names have been changed to protect their privacy.*



"With Time To Know I like school work."

Adam, Student