



مركز الابتكار للتعليم *Creative Learning Center*

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing you regarding Creative Learning Center. We are a center located in Al-Maweleh that is striving to educate children with special needs. We opened our doors in November 2007. We are taking all special needs children regardless of nationality or financial situation or limitations.

We take children that have Autism, Down Syndrome, mental retardation and Cerebral Palsy (CP); as well as many other conditions. Many of these children had either been dismissed from their private or government schools or had been rejected from going to the regular schools all together

As you may know, there are very few resources for these children in Oman. Early Intervention Center and Al-Wafa Centers are practically the only places that are really doing specialized programs for special needs children. However, Early Intervention is only taking young learners and both Centers have long waiting lists.

Our aim in opening this center is to help and educate these children, and hopefully help some of them to graduate from high school. We have gotten loans from banks and asked friends and relatives to give us money to start the center. It cost us 300 RO per month to educate one special needs child. (Education, speech, occupational, behavioral and physical therapies, one to one lessons, bus fees, food etc) However, this cost is not passed on to the parents. The parents who's income falls below 650 RO monthly are put on a social status and only pay only a percentage out of their income (5-15% depending on their financial situation)

There is a child that had been to four schools and every time after attending the school for about a month, the school would call the parents and them to come get their child. The school would expel him from their school. After all of this the mother just left him at home and hired a teacher to teach him. There is nothing drastically wrong with this child, He has a severe case of dyslexia and IQ deficiency (mild mental retardation) and would have been fine in the school system if he had gotten support lessons. The mother had told each school that she enrolled him in the problem with her child; however, the schools did nothing to support the learning needs of this child. This story is not unique; I have many families that have told me the same story, only the child's name changes.

I really want to do more for these families; however I need funds and funding to do this. These families need a place to put their children. I feel that is very important for these children to have an education and a skill so later in their life they can depend on themselves. What will happen after their parents die and there is no one to take care of these children that will turn into adults? Who will take care of them? Who will support them? Where will they live? These are all very important questions we must ask ourselves. It is so important that these children become self reliant and learn a skill so that they will not become a problem for government or society. We need sponsors for these children.

I feel within me that it is possible for these children to learn and to learn a skill and in some cases even go on to college and earn a diploma. I have seen this myself in the United States. However, they need to be given a chance. We want to teach these children to be self-reliant on themselves instead of relying on the government or on handouts for help.

We want these children to get educated and learn a skill; this is important for their future. These children should not be neglected because they have different needs than other children.

Therefore we are asking for help for these children. We want you to consider sponsoring a child. A person can do this as an individual or a group of individuals can sponsor one child.

Please help us to make a difference in these children's lives. Every little amount counts.

Thanks you
May God bless you always,

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