



## Our History

**OROT** was founded 15 years ago in response to the growing need to educate children whose learning differences are outside the scope of resource room services provided in Jewish day schools. In January 1999 a teacher and a director were hired, and **OROT** opened its doors to its first students. Today, **OROT** has almost fifty students in ten classes and is a collaborative venture with Perelman Jewish Day School, Politz Hebrew Academy, and Torah Academy.

## Who We Are

### Our Mission Statement

**OROT** is an organization which supports special needs education in Jewish day schools for those children whose needs cannot be met by a resource room.

In conjunction with host schools **OROT** sets policy, creates and supervises programs, provides financial support and advocates for the services provided to children with special needs.

**OROT** seeks to provide the best possible individualized Jewish, secular and social curriculum, instruction and environment within a Jewish day school.

### Contact Us



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# OROT

**GIVE YOUR CHILD  
A QUALITY DAY  
SCHOOL  
EDUCATION  
GEARED TO HIS  
OR HER NEEDS**

[www.orotkids.org](http://www.orotkids.org)

## Our Program

**OROT's** goal is to build an educational program in a day school setting that meets the needs of the individual child. Most **OROT** classes integrate the concepts of academic self-contained classrooms with social inclusion classes where students are mainstreamed whenever possible. **OROT** seeks to include all Jewish children in the quest for a Jewish day school education regardless of their particular challenges which may include severe learning disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorders, developmental delays, behavioral disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), brain injuries, and Down syndrome. In addition, **OROT** sponsors parent and teacher workshops in the special education field to educate the **OROT** staff as well as the faculty and staff at the host schools.

**OROT** designs an individualized academic program for each child. The building blocks of math, reading, and Judaic studies are introduced in a manner in which each child meets with success. **OROT** teachers also act as the child's case manager in terms of integration into the mainstream class and social integration with peers. **OROT** teaches and reinforces such skills as active listening, following directions, organizational skills, and time management; skills that will help the **OROT** student transition back into the mainstream class.

Student teacher ratio is capped at eight to one. This small group environment allows the **OROT** teacher to give each child the attention he or she needs to internalize lessons and strategies.

**OROT's** presence in our host schools, Perelman Jewish Day School, Politz Hebrew Academy, and Torah Academy has served to enhance the lives and experience of the general population at the schools. These students learn tolerance, patience, and acceptance of the unique differences of each **OROT** child. They participate in the success of the **OROT** experience by serving as peer role models to **OROT** students, as help mates and, most touching of all, as friends.

## Curriculum Offerings

**OROT**, the Hebrew word for lights, seeks to provide the best possible individualized Jewish, secular and social curriculums to "kindle the flame" of potential in children with special needs. The **OROT** classrooms are individualized. Periodic assessments are administered in order to constantly address the changing needs of the student. The **OROT** teacher acts as a case manager for the student's involvement in the mainstream classroom - overseeing social, behavioral and emotional growth.

## Topics of Study

### Language Arts

- Phonemic awareness activities with a multi-modality approach
- Phonics program
- Reading program
- Comprehension skills

### Listening Skills

- Auditory Memory skills
- Auditory discrimination
- Following directions

### Writing Skills

- Functional handwriting
- Creative expression

### Math Skills

- Parallel mainstream curriculum using more manipulatives, different strategies and yearlong constant repetition of all concepts taught

### Judaic Studies

- Cultural curriculum  
Hebrew language

### Social Skills

- Includes explicit instruction in:
  - How to be a friend
  - How to join a group
  - Appropriate behavior in group dynamics
  - Strategies for success in the classroom