



ROOM ON THE BENCH

Make Room for Every Student to Succeed

A Jewish day school is a place where students grow, discover, and deepen their values. A common reality our schools face is that not every student learns at the same pace or in the same way.

Many day schools report that they want to include learners at all levels—ranging from the highly gifted to those with mild to moderate learning disabilities—yet they are challenged by the lack of knowledge, resources or time that it takes to best serve each student.

Accommodating students individually may seem challenging, but with the right knowledge and tools to bolster your teachers' skillsets, you will find that it can be done efficiently and cost-effectively.

At Room on the Bench, we work within your existing frameworks to accommodate students' individualized needs. We help you create classrooms and a learning culture in which all students can thrive.

How We Work with Schools

Your classroom already comprises diverse learners. Room on the Bench can help you educate ALL children—especially those with diverse learning needs and abilities.

Customized Coaching

Room on the Bench offers customized coaching and training to help Jewish Day Schools and educator programs take steps to accommodate diverse learners in mainstream settings. We strengthen your teachers' toolboxes so they can better serve your students.

- **We assess, train and empower your staff** through one-on-one classroom observation and feedback, team-wide workshops, and meetings with leaders to create small or large systematic change.
- **We recommend ways to ease the physical and financial burden**, providing the tools and individualized consultations that will benefit your students and their families, your teachers and your classroom culture.
- **We work within your existing frameworks** to strengthen communal awareness and build skills in creating accommodations in curriculum, effective communication, understanding student behavior, and more.

“Dana showed us simple ways we could better serve the wide range of learners within our school, and how we could incorporate inclusive practices—even without being an inclusion school.”



Photo: Luria Academy of Brooklyn

Sample Workshop and Coaching Topics

Room on the Bench customizes individualized or small group workshops and coaching based on your needs. We do so in-person or by video chat.

Customized Workshops

Enhancing Your Classrooms:

- Creating Student-centric Classroom Environments
- Multi-Sensory Lesson Planning
- Accommodations 101: Meeting Student Needs
- Successful Student Transitions: Into, Out of, and Within the Classroom

Growing Teacher Skills:

- Communicating without the Power Struggle: How to Use Collaborative Problem Solving with Students
- Response to Intervention (RTI): What to Do When Students Fall Behind Academically
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS): What to Do When Students are a Behavioral Challenge
- Writing and Implementing Individualized Behavior Intervention Plans

Supporting Teachers and Students:

- Teaching Students Classroom Survival Skills (Executive Functioning)
- Engaging Outside Service Providers (Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Counseling)

“The Accommodations 101 Workshop was an amazingly informative session that got me thinking about my approach and setting my students up for success. Dana was terrific—hugely knowledgeable, professional and approachable.”



Photo: Luria Academy of Brooklyn



“Our students are happier, our teachers are happier, and we have seen positive change in our classrooms.”

Why Room on the Bench?

The Talmud relates that for years the Beit Midrash (House of Study) had been run by a Rabbi who restricted access to limited students. When Elazar ben Azariah took charge, he opened the doors to everyone, and 400 benches were added to accommodate the students finally welcomed inside.

We believe there is always “room on the bench” for 21st century Jewish day school students to learn in mainstream settings.

Together we can help you make room for all students to succeed.

About Dana Keil, Founder and Director

Dana Keil is the founder and director of Room on the Bench: A Project of Luria Academy of Brooklyn. Growing up with brothers with learning disabilities, she saw how her parents struggled to find a school that would meet their educational needs, while challenging them at a high academic level. This inspired Dana in her mission to ensure that all Jewish students have access to a Jewish education.

Dana received a B.S. in severe Special Education from Boston University and an M.S.Ed in Special Education with a concentration in Behavioral Disorders from Hunter College. She worked in the Brookline, MA and New York City Public School systems as a Special Educator focusing on implementing inclusion. Dana most recently worked at Luria Academy of Brooklyn as the Director of Support Services. She was chosen as a Joshua Venture Group Dual Investment Program Fellow and is a recipient of the Ruderman Family Foundation Award for Inclusion.

“Dana is a keen observer of students and classroom dynamics. She is extremely effective and sensitive in communicating her observations and suggestions to teachers, and in having respectful dialogues about the students. She offered concrete suggestions to benefit individual students as well as the entire class.”



Contact Us

Everyone benefits from a classroom environment in which there are diverse learning styles. With the right support in place, Jewish learners of all abilities can go on to great success. Room on the Bench provides the customized support that benefits your teachers, your students and your entire school community.

We invite you to learn more by contacting us.

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