

# A NOTE FROM A GRANDMOTHER

WRITTEN BY: CHANIE GORDON

Dear Parents,

It's about nine and a half years since our very beloved granddaughter Shoshana was born. Our dear children were with us enjoying the last days of Pesach, when my daughter went into labor and left us with their seventeen-month-old son to go to the hospital. Only after Yom Tov did we hear the Mazel Tov- a baby girl! A few minutes later, a second phone call- the shocking news that the baby has Down syndrome. We took a deep breath, left the Pesach kitchen as it was, and raced to be with our children.

When I came to my daughter in the hospital, I picked up the beautiful baby and held her close to my heart. Shoshana has remained close to my heart ever since that moment.

Shoshana is a role model to the whole family in so many ways. She has taught us how to laugh, be happy and content. She has taught her siblings how to be extra sensitive, caring and patient; enabling them to be exceptional children.

She also spreads her message to my other grandchildren - her cousins. She taught them how to love and interact with a special needs child. While learning from teachers and parents about the importance of v'ahavta l'reacha kamocho is vital, learning by virtue of being "cousin" friends with Shoshana

teaches my eineklach life-long lessons that are immeasurable and Be'ezras Hashem will help them excel in bein adam l'chaveiro.

We are so grateful that today there are schools like SCHI that enable children to "reach the stars". Shoshana has reached tremendous milestones. She rides a two-wheeler and plays with other children beautifully. Last week, Shoshana surprised her mother and put her two-year-old sister into pajamas, including her pull ups!

While the challenge for parents who raise a special needs child is enormous, and as a parent we always wish only an easy simple life for our children, I still must humbly thank the Ribono Shel Olam for Shoshana- recognizing the bracha she brings.

I wish all the choshuve parents that they should see only nachas and bracha and be zoche to see the geula.

Sincerely,  
Chanie Gordon ♡