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## Faculty of Social Sciences School of Education

### HaLev

The National Center  
for Simulation in Education



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**HaLev**, The National Center for Simulation in Education, was founded in 2012 in collaboration with the Teaching Personnel, Training and Professional Development Administration of the Israeli Ministry of Education, managed by Dr. Sarah Zilbershtrum.

Our goal is to promote and foster effective conditions for teaching and learning by integrating relevant communication skills in to the routine conduct of teachers and educators.

The center facilitates a unique simulation learning experience by utilizing professional actors who perform the roles of key figures from the day-to-day lives of educators in order to promote quality teaching based on the interpersonal dimension of these interactions. This dimension is expressed in relevant educational communication skills and language which allow teachers to use their professional knowledge in the way best suited to their students.

The events used in the simulations are focused on the experience of conflict and so allow us to identify and recognize our own personal automatic responses which we often turn to in stressful situations. Exploring these behaviors in this learning space allows us to become familiar with the different expressions of and reasons behind these responses, as the basis for a clear understanding of the need for change and in order to explore other possible options when faced with similar experiences in reality.

**W**e believe that interactions between teachers and students that are based on relevant interpersonal communication ensure students the right to effective learning experiences, as well as the right not to understand and to ask for further explanation. In such interactions the teacher is charged with recognizing each individual student's needs while also acknowledging the needs of the other students in the class, as well as his or her own needs as a person and as a teacher.

**T**he simulation workshops take place in state-of-the-art laboratories outfitted with sophisticated technology systems where the participants partake in a hands-on learning experience in a safe space, participating in simulations of different preselected scenarios that are specifically adapted to the needs of each group. These scenarios are written according to an "if-then" model whereby the actors react dynamically according to the interpersonal interaction created by each individual volunteer in each simulation.

**T**he simulations are recorded on video, which advances a deeper learning experience through the video-based-debriefing process that takes place after each simulation. This debriefing inquiry process allows participants to see themselves in action and to identify additional and new communication skills which can be consciously chosen for use in similar situations in the future.

**H**aLev operates as a research center with the intention of promoting evidence-based policy. The aim of our research is to develop a theoretically informed knowledge base about the contribution of experiential simulative learning in the training of teachers and educators, as well as applicable knowledge in the design of simulation workshops that promote the goals of teaching and professional development.



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