



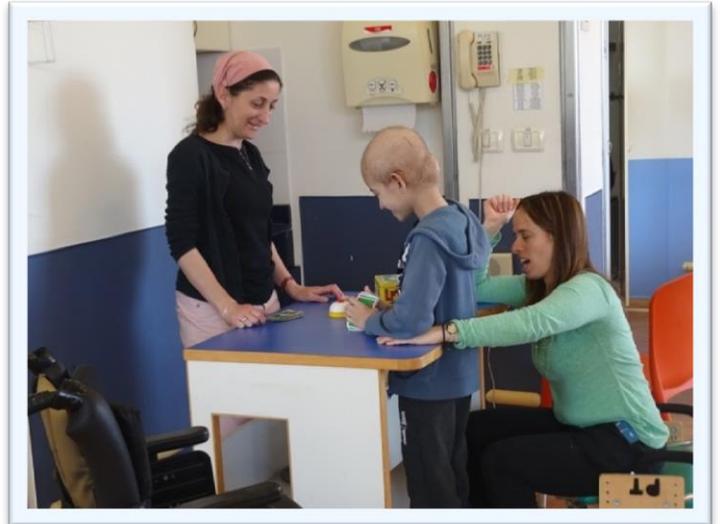
Coping with cancer and the side effects of treatment

Early intervention using active rehabilitation helps children stay strong while battling cancer.

For many years, children who had completed cancer treatment - chemotherapy, radiation therapy or surgery - had come to ALYN Hospital for rehabilitation in order to regain the strength and functioning that had been lost due to the debilitating effects of the disease and the unwarranted side effects of the treatment.

However, as is the way of ALYN Hospital's therapists who continuously strive to provide the best care possible for the children they treat, a number of years ago the idea arose to begin a rehabilitation program of physical, occupational, speech and psychological therapy at the start of the cancer treatment - sometimes even on the very first day - before the negative effects of the treatment set in.

Today, this approach has become the standard at ALYN Hospital for children undergoing any kind of cancer treatment, and without a doubt it has served to help these children stay strong on all levels - physical and emotional - while fighting the battle to stay alive.



Ro'i and his mother play a card game while the ALYN Hospital physiotherapist corrects his stance and supports his ability to maintain his balance.



An ALYN Hospital occupational therapist supervises Ro'i in "cooking" therapy, which encourages children to sharpen their fine motor skills through mixing, sifting, scooping, cutting, measuring, pouring and a myriad of other techniques. As fun as making the food is for the children, the best part of treatment session always comes at the end - eating the yummy food they made themselves!



One of Ro'i's favorite activities at ALYN Hospital - and one of the most effective - is hydrotherapy. A child with very weak muscles due to cancer treatment or any other condition can benefit from the buoyancy of the water, which works against gravity to help him or her attain a greater range of movement. At the same time, the resistance of the water acts as a weight, exercising the muscles more effectively.