



# For children with Ollier disease, play is therapy!

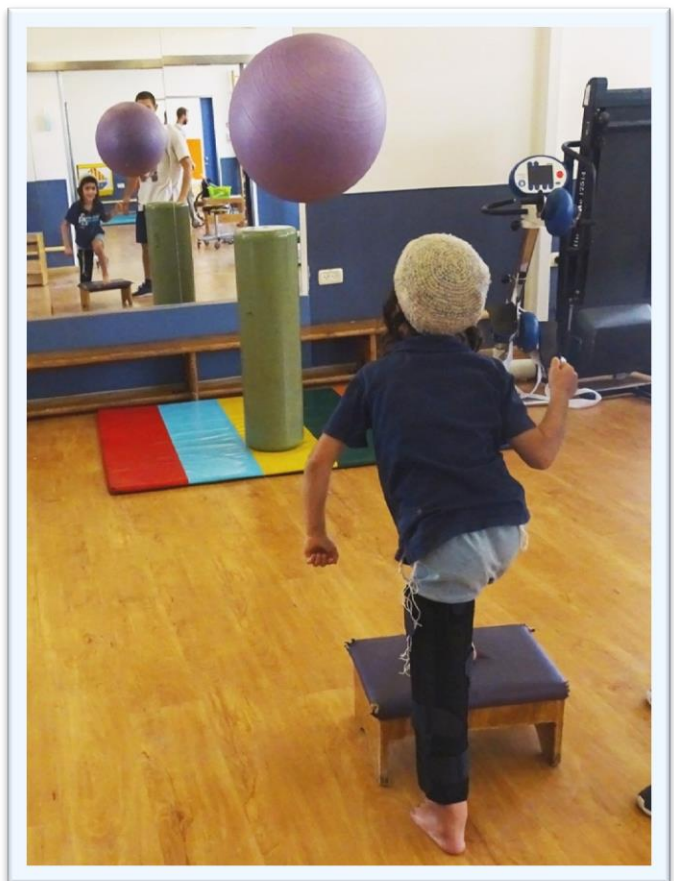
**The skeletal disorder causes growths of cartilage to develop within the bones of babies and young children, and is most commonly treated with surgery and therapy.**

In babies, toddlers and young children with Ollier disease, orthopedic surgery aims to help correct the abnormal growths in the bones. However, without a program of physical therapy, the likelihood that the child will be able to walk with a normal gait is limited.

The challenge for physical therapists is to find creative ways of engaging children who have had orthopedic surgeries to be active participants in their rehabilitation, and the physical therapy department at Alyn Hospital has decades of experience in doing just that. In fact, one walking around the hospital seeing children throwing balls, playing board games, gardening, swimming, climbing walls and having an all-around great time might confuse Alyn Hospital with an amusement park for kids with disabilities!



*Elroi Chai at first looks at the knee immobilizer splint with some suspicion after having it fitted for him properly by his physical therapist. Young children often find splints and braces uncomfortable, and since they sometimes lack the ability to understand their purpose, therapists need to be patient and creative in ensuring that the treatment works.*



*He quickly forgets about the splint when he becomes engaged in throwing a giant purple ball as high and as far as he can in order to knock down the green foam roller placed at a distance. This exercise helps to strengthen his muscles and his ability to balance, but for Elroi Chai, it's just a lot of fun!*