

Children's Worlds National Report

ISRAEL



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1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population

Israel is located in the Mediterranean and is 22,072 square kilometer in size. It borders Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt (formal Peace agreements exist only with two of these neighboring countries – Jordan and Egypt). Israel has a population of approximately 9 million and it is comparatively densely populated.

Israel's GDP per capita was \$40,543.6 in 2017³. The financial state of Israel is considered good and stable, with unemployment rates standing on 3.9% as of April 2019⁴. Yet, not all the population enjoys this financial stability. Inequality in Israel (as measured by the Gini Coefficient) is among the highest among OECD countries⁵. Poverty rates are also high – 19.9% of households are considered poor, a rate which is one of the highest among OECD countries (Bank of Israel). Poverty rates among children are even higher – 25% in 2018⁶, while the average among the OECD countries is 14 %⁷. The rates of poverty and unemployment among Arab citizens (both adults and children) are substantially higher than among Jewish citizens.

Most of Israel's residents are Jewish (75%), 17.4% are Muslims, 2% are Christian, 1.6% Druze, and about 4% have no religious affiliation. In terms of level of religiosity, out of the Jewish adult population, about 43% are secular, 38% are "traditional" (only slightly religious), 10% are religious and 9% are very religious (ultra-orthodox). Due to the fact that religious and ultra-orthodox Jews tend to have large families, these proportions are slightly different among children. In Israel, two formal languages exist: Hebrew and Arabic. All pupils are required to learn Hebrew, but not Arabic. This means that all Arab children know Hebrew, yet most Jewish children do not know Arabic.

Within Israel society, there are extensive differences between populations, and growing up in each group might be quite different. Among the Jewish secular and mildly religious society, children are a central aspect of life: most parents wish for a large family (average number of children in a family is 2.4, quite higher than OECD average) and adults go to great lengths to answer children's needs and desires. Middle- and upper-class families usually encourage children to participate in organized afterschool activities (such as extra classes, sports or music lessons). In Jewish religious ultra-orthodox society, children from the age of three spend many hours in schools, which are separate for girls and boys. Most families are quite poor so after-school activities are rare. This society is very conservative and children are expected to respect adults. In Arab society, respecting adults and authority figures is also a central value.

Child labor is prohibited until age 15 (during summer vacation, children are allowed to work if they are over 14 and only under certain conditions). There are more laws aimed at

³ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/ny.gdp.pcap.cd?end=2017&start=2017>

⁴ <https://www.cbs.gov.il/EN/pages/default.aspx>

⁵ http://taubcenter.org.il/wp-content/files_mf/stateofthenation2018.pdf

⁶ http://taubcenter.org.il/wp-content/files_mf/stateofthenation2018.pdf

⁷ <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/poverty-rate.htm>

protecting working children, such as: Under the age of 16, it is prohibited to employ children during night time (22:00-08:00); Working adolescents must be paid at least minimum wage; Hiring child actors or children (under the age of 15) for appearing in commercials requires special approval.

Israeli media plays a major role in families' and children's life. Furthermore, the rate of children using social networking and smartphones are relatively high. Both parents and children are subject to intensive advertising campaigns to create new needs and huge budgets are devoted to selling children's products. Many children (middle- and upper-class families) own their own television, mobile phone, and computer at early ages.

Family and Child Policies

Political discussions in Israel tend to focus on either national security issues or on economic-social issues (housing issues, etc.). Child and family issues are not a main issue in t Israel's political agenda. However, some people and organizations in Israel (such as Israel's National Council for the Child) go to great lengths in order to put this issue "on the table".

Israel has laws guaranteeing free education for children (ages 3-18) and free dental care until the age of 12. Israel has a universal health insurance scheme and a universal child allowance system. However, the child allowance was dramatically cut back in recent years and the amount paid to the parents for each child is roughly 45 dollars per month. Israel employs a paid maternity leave of 14 weeks (the father can receive some of these weeks instead of the mother) and an unpaid maternity leave (which secures the workplace) for up to one year. In some cities/towns with low socioeconomic status, children are given a hot meal for lunch and longer school days. However, only 236,000 children were eligible for this in 2015-16 and only 50.5% of them actually received it⁸.

Probably the most influential factor in children's life in Israel is the national dispute and the Arab Israeli conflict. The ongoing dispute and the outbursts of violence have a major impact on both Jewish and Arab children as well as on the overall society. Furthermore, Israel has witnessed a growing economic inequality to a level in which 1 in every 3 children in Israel is poor.

Education System

The vast majority of students in Israel attends public schools. Compulsory free of charge education starts at age three (nursery education). At approximately age six, children begin attending elementary schools (grades 1-6, also compulsory and free of charge). Most children start middle school at 13 (grades 7-9) and high school at 16 (grades 10-12). Compulsory education ends at 18 (For Special Needs children it ends at 21). The staying on rate after the age of 17 in 2012 was 91.2% among Jewish students and 83.5% among Arab students. The school system at all grade levels includes three types of schools for Jewish children, according to the level of religiosity (secular, religious and ultra-orthodox) and

⁸ https://fs.knesset.gov.il/globaldocs/MMM/135a4001-1afc-e611-80ca-00155d020699/2_135a4001-1afc-e611-80ca-00155d020699_11_10386.pdf

schools which teach in Arabic for Arab children. In general, students in elementary schools in Israel are not grouped in classes according to their academic abilities.

All children in Israel have access to free education, including children whose parents are illegal immigrants. Sending children to school is obligatory, and parents who do not send their children to the school are approached by officials and can be fined or even imprisoned for not upholding the law. The education system is, unfortunately, quite unequal. According to Israel's National Council for the Child⁹, differing levels in socio-economic status are reflected in expenditure on education. In the lowest socio-economic level (level 1), local authorities' expenditure per pupil was 3,100 NIS. However, in the highest socio-economic level (level 10), local authorities' expenditure per pupil was 13,800 NIS.

Family environment

Israel's society is still quite a conservative one and the most typical family structure in the Israeli context is 'nuclear' - i.e. only parent(s) and children living in the same household, but there is a big diversity of situations. The average number of children in a family is 2.4, a figure which has remained stable since 2005. Most households live in apartments (63%), 11% live in apartments which have an attached garden or balcony to them, 14% live in private houses and 12% live in cottages. In terms of ownership of apartments, 66.5% of Israelis own an apartment/house¹⁰. Some children help with household chores and some help babysit younger siblings. Girls are usually expected to help with both, more so than boys.

Changes in family structure are quite common if parent's relationships end. Thus, children live in a diverse range of family forms including lone parent, or parent and step-parent. It is also becoming increasingly common for children to spend some of their time living in two different homes when their two birth parents separate.

Approximately 4 of every 1000 children in Israel live away from their family because of serious concerns about the children's welfare¹¹. In this case, children may be placed in residential care (children's homes) or, less frequently, in foster care or in 'kinship care' (i.e. with other family members).

Everyday life

Children in Israel stay between 5.5 and 6 hours a day at school until they are 12. They usually start at 8 am, and finish at about 13:30. After school, approximately a third of the children (grades 6, 8 and 10) watch TV for more than four hours per day¹². A significant proportion of children are "online" for many hours. In 2012, 83.9% of children aged 7-11 reported that they had accessed the internet; among 15-17-year-olds, this figure reached

⁹ <https://www.children.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%93%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C-%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%9F-2017.pdf>

¹⁰ http://www.cbs.gov.il/www/hodaot2015n/15_15_016b.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.children.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/%D7%99%D7%9C%D7%93%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%91%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C-%D7%A9%D7%A0%D7%AA%D7%95%D7%9F-2017.pdf>

¹² <http://www.children.org.il/Files/File/SHNATON/%20%202012.pdf>

97.1%. Around half of the children aged 7-12 report that they use the internet for 3-5 hours every day or almost every day.

Many children spend additional time at school after school hours, because many schools offer “extra school” activities in their buildings, which the family must pay for. Many children in Israel do also many out-of-school activities, most of them fee-paying, particularly because the job hours of their parents do not allow them to go back home so early. Children from more wealthy families usually have access to higher quality extra-school activities, and additionally more educated families usually give higher importance to the so-called “educational leisure activities”. After school activities are much less common among lower class children, although some government programs and NGO's offer after-school activities to these children. Most children have their say choosing what extra-school or out-of-school activities they want to attend, and they usually enjoy them.

Children's Rights

Israel is a signatory of the UN Charter on the Rights of the Child. Israel's National Council for the Child (an NGO) has operated an Ombudsman for Children and Youth since 1990. Moreover, there is an independent Ombudsman for Children and Youth in out of home care since 2017.

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

The Israeli sample surveyed children aged 8, 10 and 12. It was based on random sampling: cluster sampling combined with stratified sampling. We used the administrative list of the total elementary schools in Israel of the Education Ministry, which included 2,748 elementary schools, of which 75 were not part of the survey's population, thus the overall sampling frame included 2,673 schools. This list of schools (clusters) were divided into the following strata: religion group/sector (Jewish/Arab), Close-remote from the center (close to the center/remote from the center-periphery) and educational supervision type, which was only relevant for the Jews sector (state stream-secular/state stream-religious/ultra-orthodox). The combination of those layers created eight different strata.

A proportional allocation to the size of the layer was used. The size figure we used was the number of schools in the stratum. For example, if a stratum constitutes 10% of all the schools in the framework, we assign 10% of the sample size to the stratum. It was decided that for the purpose of the proportional allocation the total sample size would be 60 schools. In the second stage, we allocated an additional 34 schools to the ultra-Orthodox strata (in order to cope with the expected low response rates) and we further added five schools to two strata that received a very small number of schools, thus overall 93 schools were contacted.

As in each school, all the students in the second, fourth and sixth grades were sampled (one-step sampling of different clusters size). Therefore, a method of sampling with uniform probability in the stratum was chosen, in which each student in the sampling stratum has the same probability of being included in the sample. Among the methods of sampling with

uniform probability, we preferred systematic random sampling in order to be able to control the other variables that were used to sort the schools.

Table no. 1 present the information regarding the allocation. In each school which participated in the survey all the students in the second, fourth and sixth grades took part in the survey. Out of the initial overall sampling frame, 36 schools agreed to participate in the survey.

Table 1. Sampling stratum

Religion Group	Close-remote from the center	Supervision type	Proportion of schools	Final no. of schools allocated	Schools agreed to participate		No. of children participated in the survey ¹³
					No.	%	
Jewish	Periphery	Ultra-Orthodox	0.103	19	2	11%	162
Jewish	Periphery	State secular	0.128	8	6	75%	618
Jewish	Periphery	State religious	0.086	5	4	80%	385
Jewish	Center	Ultra-Orthodox	0.190	25	3	12%	109
Jewish	Center	State secular	0.214	13	9	69%	1,827
Jewish	Center	State religious	0.077	10	3	30%	352
Arab	Periphery	State secular	0.137	8	6	75%	862
Arab	Center	State secular	0.064	5	3	60%	273
Total				93	36 ¹⁴	39%	4,589

Procedure and Ethics

Ethics

The current study received the ethical permission of two authorities: the ethical committee of the school of social work at the Hebrew University and the department of the office of the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Education in Israel. After ethical permission was obtained school's managers were approached and asked to take part in the study. In order to encourage the school to participate, we offered four optional symbolic gifts (a report with school's results in the survey; a lecture in the field of children's SWB, a subscription to children educational magazine or a lamination machine). In schools where the principles agreed to take part in the study a passive agreement from parents was used: all the parents of all the children in the relevant classes received a guardian approval letter, asking for consent for their child to participate in the study, only parents who refused sent a letter back to the school. Also, informal consent was obtained from the children. During data collection, children were informed by the research assistants that they are not obliged to

¹³ After data cleaning.

¹⁴ It should be noted that if we do not include the Ultra-Orthodox strata then the percent of school who participated is 63%.

participate if they don't want to and can also choose which questions they want to answer even after starting. In cases where children did not want to participate, they stayed in class and did other assignments as directed by the teacher. Also, no names were written on the questionnaires and children were not allowed to write their names. The research assistance made sure children are answering independently, and that the teacher- who was present in the classroom- did not intervene with the answering process.

Procedure

Dates for collecting data was set with the school at least two weeks after the consent letters were sent to the parents. Data collection last between a day to three days depending on the size of the school. Questionnaires were administered in classrooms by research assistance and averaged 30–50 minutes to complete. Children whose parents did not allow them to participate did a different activity in the same area. Children aged 10-12 were given a brief, standardized explanation of the purpose of the study and were instructed to read each question carefully and to choose the response option that was most appropriate for them. Children aged 8 were given a short training about how to fill in the questionnaire, a page contains with 3 example questions was introduce to the children and the research assistance together with the children answers the questions.

Data inputting and cleaning

Responses to paper questionnaires were input into a standard template in Excel and after that, it was converted into SPSS files. The data files were then sent to the central data coordinators who did a process of data cleaning which involved a number of standard checks to identify any queries. In the Israeli database, overall 278 cases were excluded reflecting around 3% of cases being excluded from the data sets for the 10 years old and 12, years old age group and around 10% of cases from the data set for the 8 years old age group.

2. Results

2.1 The participants

Table 2. Sample by age and gender (Numbers)

	8 year old	10 year old	12 year old	Total
Boy	710	819	735	2264
Girl	772	814	726	2312
Total	1482	1633	1461	4576

The sample included a slightly bigger sample of 10 years old. Generally, there was an almost equal number of boys and girls, with a slightly higher number of girls in the 8 years old sample, and a slightly higher number of boys in the 12 years old sample.

In order to show in this report final clear numbers that reflect Israeli children in the best way, we show the averages of the 10 and 12-years old sample. The 8 years old sample's questionnaire included fewer questions that were phrased in an adjusted way to this age group, and thus they cannot be aggregated with the older samples. Furthermore, it should be noted Ultra-orthodox children were not asked some of the question due to cultural reasons, these questions were marked by *.

2.2 The home and the people children live with

As the study was conducted in the school setting, not surprisingly, the vast majority of children were living with their family, as can be seen in Table 3. Almost 73% 8 year olds rated the highest score to their satisfaction from people they live with. As for the 10 & 12 year olds, almost 74% of the children rated 10 their satisfaction from the people they live with (Table 5), while only around 3% rated their satisfaction from their family as lower than 5.

Table 3. Children's home type (10 & 12 year old) (%)

The home you live in	Family	Foster care	Residential care
10 & 12 year old N= 2344*	99.6	0.2	0.2
8 year old N=1316	98.6	0.6	0.8

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Table 4. Satisfaction with the people you live with (8 year old) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with N=1319	1.7	1.2	7.8	16.5	72.8

Table 5. Satisfaction with the people you live with (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people that you live with N=2404	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.5	1.0	2.3	2.0	3.0	5.2	11.4	73.9

Children rated highly feeling that people in their family care for them and that they feel safe at home, with about 80% rating that they "totally agree" with those statements. About 70% of the children also "totally agreed" that if they have a problem someone in their family will help, as well as that their parents listen to them and take them into account. Finally, somewhat lower percent of a bit more than 60% of the children rated they "totally agree" they have a good time with their families and that their parent make decisions about their life together with them. Regarding the last question, it should be noted that slightly more than 10% stated that they "don't agree" or "agree a little bit".

Table 6. Variations in questions about home and family (10&12 year old) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
There are people in my family who care about me N=3015	1.4	2.3	5.7	11.5	79.1
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me N=2982	2.1	3.4	7	16.7	70.8
We have a good time together in my family N=3017	2.7	3.7	8.9	21.2	63.6
I feel safe at home N=3036	1.2	1.3	3.9	10.9	82.8
My parents listen to me and take what I say into account N=2296*	1.3	3.2	8.7	18.8	68.0
My parents and I make decisions about my life together N=2203*	4.8	4.4	9.4	18.5	62.9

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

2.3 The home where children live

Table 7. satisfaction with home (8 year old) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
the house or flat where you live N=1303	3.0	1.2	5.1	13.6	77.1

Table 8. satisfaction with home (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The home that you live in N=2320*	1.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.8	2.7	1.3	3.3	5.9	10.6	72.6

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Table 9. Things you have (10 & 12 year old) (%)






Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room N=2344*	55.5
Place to study N=3079	92.9

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Overall children rated their satisfaction from their home high (Tables 7, 8). 77% of the 8 year olds and 73% of the 10 & 12 year old rated the highest satisfaction. However, still, 6.5% of the 10 & 12 year olds rated their satisfaction from home as 5 or below; and around 4% 8 year olds rated it under 3. 55.5% of the children in our sample stated they have their own room for sleeping (Table 9). Finally, 93% of the children stated they have a place in their home where they can study.

2.4 Friends

Table 10. Satisfaction with friends (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends N=1471	1.2	2.2	7.8	25.4	63.3

The 8 year old children's satisfaction from their friends was lower than the family and home, with 63.3% rating highest satisfaction. Yet, only 3.4% rated their satisfaction with friends lower than medium.

Table 11. Satisfaction with friends (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Friends N=3076	1.4	0.8	1.1	0.8	1.9	4.9	5	6.6	12.3	16.2	49






Table 12. Agreement with statements about friends (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends N=2957	4.9	5.5	11.2	19.1	59.2
My friends are usually nice to me N=2981	4.2	5.4	13.4	25.8	51.2
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me N=2932	5.7	7.3	10.4	19.6	57.1

The 10 & 12 year old children's satisfaction from their friends was relatively lower than the family and home, with 49% rating it as 10, and 18.5% rating it 8 or 9 (table 11). About 11% rated their satisfaction from their friends as 5 or lower. Moreover, table 12 shows that about 60% of the children stated they "totally agree" and 19% "agree a lot" that they have enough friends and that if they have a problem they have a friend who will support them. At the same time, regarding the last question, 13% stated they "don't agree" or "agree a little bit". Around 50% "totally agreed" and 26% "agree a lot" that their friends are usually nice.

2.5 School

Table 13. Satisfaction with school (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student N=1457	6.9	5.1	14.3	23.3	50.3
Things you have learned N=1441	6.5	4.2	14.8	23.0	51.6
Other children in your class N=1414	4.3	4.8	14.2	21.9	54.7

There is a strong similarity with the 8 year old's answers regarding satisfaction with school. More than 50% of the children are highly satisfied with their life as a student, with the

things they have learned and with other children in class (Table 13). This rate of satisfaction is relatively low, relating to other domains in life shown before in this report.

Table 14. Satisfaction with school (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Satisfaction with life as a student N=3077	5.7	0.8	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.8	5.1	7	12.3	15.8	38.5
Satisfaction with things learned at school N=3057	3.5	1.1	1.8	2.3	3.9	6.5	5.7	9.2	12.8	14.6	38.6
Satisfaction with other children in your class N=3055	3.3	1.4	1.5	3	2.7	6.8	5.5	7.4	12.8	15.9	39.7

Table 15. Agreement with statements about school (10&12 year old) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me N=2928	5.7	8.8	15.6	23.9	46
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account N=2236*	5.8	10.4	18.8	25.5	39.6
At school, I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me N=2186*	10.3	10.5	16.5	22.3	40.4
I feel safe at school N=2935	8.8	7.5	14.9	19.9	48.9

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Table 16. Frequencies of bullying (10&12 year old) (%)

How often (in the last month) have you been...	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than 3 times
Hit by other children in your school N=2924	63.7	15.6	9.2	11.5
Called unkind names by other children in your school N=2909	53	15	11	21
Left out by other children in your class N=2950	79.6	9.4	4	7

Regarding their satisfaction from school, around 39% of the 10 & 12 year olds children in our sample rated 10 their satisfaction from their life as a student, things learned at school and from the children in their class (Table 14). Between 27-29% rated their satisfaction in these questions as 8 or 9. Still, at the same time, it should be noted 21% rated their satisfaction from their life as a student as 5 or lower, and around 19% rated “things learned at school” and “children in their class” as 5 or lower.

As presented in Table 15, about 69% of the children, stated they “agree a lot” or “totally agree” that they fill their teacher care for them and that they feel safe at school. While around 6% did not agree their teacher care for them and 9% did no agree they feel safe at

their school. 65% of the children “agree a lot” or “totally agree” that their teachers listen to them and take what they say into account, while 6% did not agree. 63% of the children “agree a lot” or “totally agree” that they have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to them, while around 10% of the children did not agree with this statement.

Regarding bullying behavior that is shown in Table 16, 64% stated they were never hit by other children in their school in the last month, while 11.5% stated they were hit more than three times, and around 9% were hit two or three times. 53% reported they were never called in unkind names, while 21% were called unkind names more than 3 times in the last month, and 11% reported this has happened to them two or three times. Finally, almost 80% of the children stated they were never left out by other children, while 7% reported this has happened to them more than 3 times in the last month, and 4% two or three.

2.6 The area where children live

Table 17. Satisfaction with the area (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live N=1467	2.9	2.0	6.7	15.3	72.9

Most of the 8 year olds of our sample (72.9%) rated their satisfaction with the area they live in at the highest score (Table 17). This percentage is similar to their satisfaction in other domains, as people you live with and home.

Table 18. Satisfaction with the area (10&12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
the area you live N=3059	2.9	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.0	3.8	2.5	4.1	7.5	12.5	63.6

Table 19. Agreement with statements about the local area (%)

In my area, I live in...	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk around in the area I live in N=2996	4.8	4.4	10.3	20.8	59.6
In my area there are enough places to play and have a good time N=3013	9.5	5.8	10.1	15.3	59.4

Almost 64% of the children in our sample rated their satisfaction with the area they live in as 10, and another 20% rated it as 8 or 9 (Table 18). However, at the same time, almost 10% rated their satisfaction from their area as 5 or bellow. As can be seen in Table 19, about 60% of the children stated that they “totally agree” they feel safe when they walk around their area and that in their area there are enough places to play and have a good time. Another 21% and 15% stated they “agree a lot” and “agree somewhat” (correspondingly). Still, 5%

did not agree with the statement regarding safety to walk, and 9.5% did not agree they have enough places to play.

2.7 Money and the things children have

Table 20. Money and food (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
How often do you worry about how much money your family has? N=2012*	50.5	28.0	9.7	11.8
Do you have enough food to eat each day? N=2324*	0.4	3.2	3.5	92.8

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Table 21. Satisfaction with the things you have (8 year old)(%)





Satisfaction with ...					
all the things you have N=1469	1.5	1.6	6.7	17.2	72.9

Table 22. Satisfaction with the things you have (10 & 12 year old)(%)

Satisfaction with...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
the things you have N=3053	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.9	2.3	3.3	8.0	13.5	67.7

In our sample, about as depicted in Table 20, 93% of the children reported they always have enough food to eat, while 3.5% mention they have enough food “often”, about 3.2% “sometimes” and 0.4% reported they never have enough food (Table 20). About 50% of the children stated they never worry about how much money they have, while about 10% reported the often worry, and 12% reported they always worry about money.

Regarding satisfaction with the things you have, about 73% of the 8 year olds rated their satisfaction as the highest (Table 21), and about 68% of the 10 & 12 year olds rated their satisfaction as 10, while another 21.5% rated it as 8 or 9 (Table 22). Around 3% reported their satisfaction from things they have less than the medium rate (less than 3 for 8 year olds, and less than 5 for 10&12 year olds).

Table 23. Having different items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Which of the following do you have	Yes	No
Clothes in good condition N=3071	88.9	11.1
Enough money for school trips and activities N=3076	87.5	12.5
Access to the internet at home N=2323*	84.6	15.4
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies N=2313*	81.5	18.5
Pocket money / money to spend on yourself N=2307*	78.1	21.9
Two pairs of shoes in good condition N=3063	86.3	13.7
A mobile phone N=2314*	79	21
The equipment/things you need for school N=3073	89.5	10.5

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

Table 24. Having bathrooms, cars and computers (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	None	One	Two	More than two
How many bathrooms are in your home? N=3084	0.4	22.5	49.3	27.7
Does your family own a car, van or truck? N=3067	7.0	31.5	47.8	13.7
How many computers do your family own? N=3084	4.2	18.8	17.8	59.2

Table 25. Having a washing machine (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	Yes	No
Does your family have a washing machine? N=3065	98.7	1.3

As for the items children have, about 89% reported they have clothes and equipment for the school. About 87% reported they have money for school trips and two pair of shoes. 85% reported they have internet at home, 81.5% has equipment for school, 79% has a mobile phone and 78% has pocket money. It should be noted that a few of this questions were not asked among the ultra-orthodox sample (Table 23).

Children were also asked about having bathrooms and washing machine at home. 0.4% reported they do not have a bathroom at home (Table 24). 1.3% reported they do not have a washing machine at home (Table 25). Regarding their family having their own car, van or truck, shown in Table 24, 7% reported their family does not have any car, 31.5% had one car and 60.5% reported they have two or more. As for computers, 4.2% reported they do not have a computer at home, about 19% reported they have one, and 77% reported they have two or more.

Finally, children were also asked regarding holidays as can be seen in Table 26. 12.2% reported they did not go on and travel away on holiday with their family in the year. While

about 16% reported they went once, and 56% reported they went more than twice. 39% reported they did not go on a holiday abroad, 24.5% reported they went once in the last year, and about 37% went twice or more.

Table 26. Going on holiday (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	Not at all	Once	Twice	More than twice
In the last 12 months did you travel away on holiday with your family? N=3070	12.2	16.1	15.6	56.1
How many of these holidays were outside your country? N=2309*	38.6	24.5	12.8	24

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

2.8 Time use

Table 27. Satisfaction with time use (8 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time N=1435	2.6	2.2	9.5	22.2	63.6

Table 28. Satisfaction with time use (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Time use N=3011	1.9	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.3	4.1	4.7	7.6	12.8	17.2	48.5

With regard to time use, among the 8 year old children, 63.6% rated their satisfaction at the highest rate (Table 27). Among the 10 & 12 year old children, 48.5% of the child reported their satisfaction from their time use as 10, 30% reported their satisfaction as 8 or 9 (Table 28). About 5% reported their satisfaction from their time use lower than medium rate (less than 3 for 8 year olds, and less than 5 for 10&12 year olds).

2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

Table 29. Satisfaction with life as a whole (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole N=2976	1.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.1	2.1	1.6	3.0	5.0	9.8	73.7

CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Table 30. CW-SWBS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life N=3078	1.6	0.2	0.8	0.9	1.5	3.3	2.1	4.5	8.4	12.8	64.0
My life is going well N=3074	1.9	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.8	4.0	2.9	5.1	8.6	17.2	56.4
I have a good life N=3049	1.8	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.0	2.7	2.4	3.3	6.4	13.4	66.6
The things that happen in my life are excellent N=3059	2.3	0.8	1.1	0.9	2.2	4.0	3.4	5.2	10.0	15.8	54.3
I like my life N=3064	1.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	2.2	1.7	3.1	5.6	10.7	71.1
I am happy with my life N=3070	2.0	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.5	2.4	1.7	3.0	6.3	10.4	70.3

CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale), 2003)

Table 31. CW- DBSWBS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with N=2613	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.8	1.8	3.2	5.7	11.2	74.1
Your friends N=3065	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.7	4.7	3.9	6.5	12.2	17.3	49.7
Your life as a student N=3072	4.7	1.1	1.0	2.2	2.8	7.0	4.8	7.8	12.9	15.5	40.1
The area where you live N=3058	2.2	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.3	3.4	2.1	4.0	7.4	12.0	65.7
The way that you look N=2942	2.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.6	3.5	2.6	4.1	8.8	13.9	60.3

CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

Table 32. CW-PNAS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy N=2942	2.3	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.6	3.9	3.9	3.7	8.4	12.2	61.2
Calm N=2909	5.7	2.0	1.7	2.3	3.8	9.2	5.4	7.8	10.2	11.6	40.3
Full of energy N=2911	2.2	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.8	5.0	3.0	5.3	7.1	9.3	62.8
Sad N=2913	32.1	10.9	10.4	7.5	6.4	7.9	4.9	3.9	4.3	3.8	7.9
Stressed N=2882	24.5	6.6	4.9	5.2	5.5	9.2	5.4	7.1	6.5	7.4	17.7
Bored N=2938	23.4	5.1	5.7	5.2	5.6	10.8	7.0	6.9	8.5	4.5	17.3

CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)-

Table 33. CW- PSWBS items (10 & 12 year old) (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am N=1254	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.7	2.6	5.1	7.4	13.7	62.9
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities N=1254	1.5	0.5	1.0	1.7	1.6	3.7	3.7	5.3	10.8	14.8	55.4
People are generally pretty friendly towards me N=1252	1.4	0.5	0.7	1.1	1.4	3.2	2.9	5.8	8.6	19.5	55.0
Ol have enough choice about how I spend my time N=1248	0.7	0.3	0.9	1.6	1.6	2.3	3.4	4.0	10.1	14.1	61.0
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment N=1250	3.3	1.4	1.6	2.6	3.0	6.6	5.9	8.1	11.1	13.4	43.0
I feel positive about my future N=1247	1.1	0.3	1.1	0.6	1.7	3.4	2.4	5.8	8.9	14.3	60.4

Table 34. Subjective well-being measures (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	OLS	CW-SWBS	CW-DBSWBS	Positive Affect	Negative Affect	CW-PSWBS
	N=3078	N=3004	N=2090*	N=2838	N=2813	N=1157
Mean	89.5	88.6	87.3	82.8	42.6	86.6

The children satisfaction in the various subjective well-being scales ranged between 82.8-89.5. Overall Subjective Well-Being scale showed higher average in our sample of 89.5. Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale average was 88.6. In another scale that is based on satisfaction in different domains - Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being, the average in our sample was 87.3. In the Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale, the positive mean was 82.8 while the negative was 42.6. Finely, Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being mean was 86.6.

2.10 Children perceptions about their country

Children were asked about their knowledge about rights. 62% reported they know what rights children have, while about 9% stated they did not, and 29% were not sure. Regarding knowing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, about 23% stated they know it, 33% reported they did not, and 44.5% were not sure.

Table 24. Children's rights and the CRC (10 & 12 year old) (%)

	Yes	No	Not Sure
I know what rights children have N=2236*	62	9.1	29
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child N=2205*	22.6	32.9	44.5

* Ultra-orthodox were not asked this question (n=751).

3. Conclusions

Overall, children in Israel represented here by the sample of 10 and 12 years old together, showed high satisfaction from their life, with overall life satisfaction of almost 90 and also high dimensional SWB, though this is hard to interpret without any reference.

Children of the ages of 8, 10 and 12 were mostly satisfied from their family, maybe with adherence to the familial culture typical to the society in Israel, across all groups. While children were satisfied in most areas related to their family, they were less satisfied regarding the time they spent together and regarding decisions. Children were also very satisfied from their home. Almost half of them shared their room with others, but still, the vast majority reported they do have a quiet place for them to study.

Satisfaction from friends was lower, with about one-tenth (of the 10&12 year old sample) reporting negatively regarding having enough friends and their friends being nice and supportive. Similar levels of satisfaction were also found regarding time use. Satisfaction from school was even lower, with relatively low satisfaction with life as a student, things you learn and the class. Perhaps relatedly, about a fifth of the children report they have been hit at school at list 2-3 times in the last month. However, still, the majority of the children did agree their teacher care for them, listen to them and that they feel safe at school.

Satisfaction from the area was also very high, with the majority reporting they feel safe and that they have enough places to play. Children's satisfaction with their material possessions was also high. Only a small fraction reported they do not have food and bathroom at home, as well as a washing machine. However, it should be noted that at the same time only half of the children reported they never worry about money. Regarding most necessities in the list, the rate children reported they do not have an item ranged between 10 to 20 percent, with children reporting they mainly do not have pocket money and equipment for hobbies. When it comes to other main necessities, 7% reported they do not have any car and 4% that they do not have a computer. Regarding going on vacation abroad the results are somewhat surprising, with a relatively high percentage of children reporting they went once and even twice (and more). This might be an issue of social desirability bias, but also part of these results might reflect the growing economic inequality that has been mentioned in the beginning.

Finally, regarding children's rights, the majority of the children reported they know their rights, though only about fifth knew what the CRC is. It might be that children refer more to their knowledge of relevant laws regarding employment and extra.

In summary, it seems overall that children in Israel are satisfied mainly from their life at home, their family, house the things they have. They are relatively less satisfied with their out of home life – their friends and school. Of course, all of these patterns need to be analyzed much deeper, taking into account the multicultural nature of the society in Israel, and various other contexts that have an effect, such as age, living area, and many others.