2025-2026 ShinShinim Testimonial: Itai



Hosting Itai as our ShinShin has been an intensely meaningful and rewarding experience for our family. From the moment he joined our home, Itai became an extension of our family. His energy, humor, thoughtfulness, and a genuine connection has enriched our daily lives in ways we could have never expected.

This experience has been especially impactful for our sons, Wyatt (6) and Robert (4). Through Itai and the other ShinShinim, they have learned about Israeli culture, traditions, language, and daily life in a personal and authentic way. More importantly, they've built real relationships with amazing kids who have helped broaden their perspectives and deepen their curiosity, empathy, and connection to Israel and the Jewish community. From gleeful Boker Tov's to introducing Itai to hockey and lacrosse, the bond they have formed is something they will carry with them for years to come.



Equally impactful has been the relationship we have built as a host family with Itai's family, and through them Israel. Since October 7th and with the ongoing war, having someone in our home connected to the people and places affected has made the tragedy heartbreakingly personal and

human. Israel and the war are no longer something happening far away in the news. When Itai was stuck in Israel because of the war, we experienced firsthand the uncertainty, stress, and emotional toll that so many Israeli families have been carrying. However, through Itai, we gained a much deeper appreciation for the resilience, strength, and humanity of the Israeli people during such an incredibly difficult time.



We are honored and grateful for the laughter, friendships, and adventures that have come from this experience. The love, connection, and memories that have grown from sharing our lives with Itai are a gift our entire family we will treasure forever.

- **Laura and Ryan Weinstein**