

מתקנת יהושע בן גמלא ואילך לא ממטינן ינוקא ממתא למתא –

**From the enactment of גמלא בן יהושע and onwards we do not bring a child from city to city**

### OVERVIEW

רבא taught that after the תקנה of גמלא בן יהושע that each city is required to provide teachers for the young children, we do not move the children from one city to another, but rather each city is obligated to provide a teacher for their city. [A teacher can teach from twenty five up to (but not including) forty students in a class. Once there are forty students (up to fifty) we need to hire an assistant. Fifty of more requires two teachers.] תוספות first qualifies and then explains this ruling.

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וכגון שיש כאן כ"ה ינוקי שראויין להשכיר להם מלמד<sup>1</sup> -

**And this rule is valid provided where for instance there are twenty-five children in this city that require that a teacher be hired for them –**

תוספות asks:

ואם תאמר הא אי הוה ממטינן להו למתא אחריתי יצטרכו מלמד בפני עצמן -

**And if you will say, but if the rule would be not like רבא, and we would be permitted to bring them (these twenty-five students) to another city, they would require a teacher for themselves -**

כיון דאיכא כ"ה ינוקי ואם כן מאי נפקא מינה<sup>2</sup> –

**Since they are twenty-five children, so therefore what difference does it make whether we move them to another city, or not?!**

תוספות answers:

ויש לומר דנפקא מינה דאי הוּו ב' מלמדי תינוקות באידך מתא -

**And one can say; that there is a difference in a case if there are two teachers in the other city (with a total of fifty students; twenty five in each class), if not for רבא -**

היו יכולין להושיב חציים בפני זה וחציים<sup>3</sup> בפני זה:

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<sup>1</sup> Otherwise if there are no twenty-five students, the local children may be transported to another city and join the classes there. See the following תוספות ד"ה סך. תוספות ד"ה סך. See 'Thinking it over'.

<sup>2</sup> תוספות taught us that the ruling of רבא is only if there are twenty five students (see footnote # 1). Why do we need the ruling of רבא, what will be the purpose of moving twenty-five children from one city to another, they will still require a separate teacher for their class, so we can have them learn here, why take them elsewhere?!

<sup>3</sup> One would have 37 student and the other 38; it is still less than 40. See 'Overview'. They will save the wages of one teacher. Therefore רבא teaches that this is not permitted and they must hire a separate teacher for these 25 students locally.

**They could place half the students (twelve) before one teacher and the other half (thirteen) before the other teacher.**

### **SUMMARY**

The rule of רבא is only if there are twenty five students. The rule is necessary in a case where in the other city there are fifty students and two teachers.

### **THINKING IT OVER**

Why is it that if there are less than twenty-five students, they can be moved to another city (so the local city will not incur the expense of a teacher),<sup>4</sup> so even if there are twenty-five students why can't they be moved as well, to limit the expense?!

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<sup>4</sup> See footnote # 1.