



HELEN KELLER INSTITUTE FOR DEAF & DEAFBLIND

Annual Report 2012-2013

Outreach Program (Mira road Center)

One of the major challenges that we faced in the last academic year while we were functioning from Bhakti Vedanta Clinic was space constraint. The issue got solved in January 2013 when we moved to a more spacious nursery setup within Mira Road called Holy Angels Nursery School. This new set up provided a lot of area for the older group to play and in conducting outdoor activities. Since more children can now be accommodated at the same time parent's network too has developed with course of time. Also we are now able to provide physio therapy and other services to our children which couldn't be given earlier due to various reasons.

- **Present scenario:**

- The center had around 20 children between the age group of 18 months to 8 years of age on the regular roll during this academic year (2012-2013). Another 10 children were provided resource services or they continued coming to us twice a week for individualised session while they were still in the process of settling down in mainstream nursery schools.

- This year the center has been moved from one small room in Bhakti Vedanta Rehabilitation Clinic to Holy Angels Nursery School located in Mira road itself.

- The center functions on 4 days a week from 12.30 pm to 6 pm within the school.

- Each child receives 4- 6 hours of individualized sessions per week depending on his/her age, need and feasibility.

- 5-8 children are attended of each day – each child comes to the program twice or thrice depending on his need.

- 3 full time special educators are working for 4 days a week.

- the educational director is visiting the center once a week to provide over all guidance and supervision.

- Pediatric physiotherapist, Loganathan Guru has been visiting the center minimum once to maximum twice a month for assessment, to provide therapy and guidance to parents and teachers regarding the different motor and sensory needs of individual children.

Children's progress

- 3 year old **Aarav** who came in as a very fragile baby getting startled at the slightest stimulus is now starting to communicate through a lot of body movements and facial expressions. He was completely on liquid diet but during the course of the year has started chewing and tolerating different textured food items like biscuits, apple etc.

- 3 year old **Anas** who was not responding much in the beginning took a long time to bond with the teacher and used to get restless after 20 mins is now sitting consistently for about 45 mins to an hour smiling and responding very meaningfully through the session. He was on a liquid diet and was being fed in supine position is now sitting and having semi solid food.

We also have been able to facilitate integration of quite a few children in the mainstream play/nursery school. Details of a few has been given below-

-2 children from the pre literacy age have now been integrated in a regular pre school after being with us for two years. **Raj Wakode** who is 3 ½ years, has been coming to this program since he was one and a half now goes to a play school and **Omkar Wapilkar** who is 4 years old is going to a regular nursery school. Omkar picked up speech and developed most of the nursery concepts within a year's time making him completely ready for regular schooling,

- 7 year old **Devakshi Sharma** is now attending a program for children with cerebral palsy (ADAPT) even though she continues to avail our services 2 times a week.

- 3 year old **Chinmay Mhapsekar** who took a really long time to settle in with our program is now going to a Play Group 4 days a week. He now enjoys the company of other children and sits through the entire school hours without much of a hassle.

- **Aryan Swamy** 4 years who came to us with issues in language development along with a visual impairment is going to a full fledged ICSE school and is now in the 1st standard. We continue to help the family in modification and adaption of the learning materials to suit his visual needs.

-5 children who attend our program also continue to avail the services (speech therapy/ physiotherapy) provided at Bhakti Vedanta Clinic

- **Staff development:**

Staff members have participated in various conferences , workshops, training all through the year to help development of services while providing services to children

-One teacher (Nisha Menon) was sent for an intensive 3 weeks training on **AAC** to Vidya Sagar institute in Chennai in February 2013.

-Another teacher (Sneha Bantwal) attended a 3 day CRE program conducted at Ali Yavar Jung which is a National Institute for the Hearing Impaired in Mumbai topic of the CRE being "**PWDs -Transition Across The Life Span**" from January 16th to 18th 2013.

-Sneha Bantwal attended a 3 days ICEVI-DBI conference in Ahmedabad from April 5th to 7th 2013. The topic of the conference was "**Towards An Inclusive Tomorrow**"

-In service trainings in form of discussions, exchanging reading materials has been done on regular basis.

- **Socio cultural activities and Parents workshops:**

-This year saw a lot on interaction and bonding between the parents which was initiated through get together during festivals.

- Parents actively participated in a 2 parents workshops conducted during the year

- A parents get together was conducted in October 2012 during the festival of Diwali at Mira Road which involved games and a few simulation activities. This meet helped them develop a network and support system for parents.

- A similar get together was again conducted during the time of Christmas in December 2012.

- Children from Mira road also actively participated in the Founders Day Celebration Program much to the joy of the parents.

- A parents workshop on **“Developing Communication And helping Children Gain Independence In Routine Activities”** was conducted in March 2013. Parents actively participated in the different simulation activities, discussions and shared experiences with their own children.



Little Raj enjoying his ducky book.



“I am a water baby!!”