



# THEERANIYAM

## News Bulletin

Volume 5

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*A Center for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.*

**Brothers of Charity, No.: 18. Govinton Road. Batticaloa. Sri Lanka.**

The School activities are taken forward smoothly with the cooperation and the dedicated team work of the teachers, they even do the cleaning and washing of the children without any hesitation when they dirty themselves. The parents too are cooperative by giving their support in every way possible.



More than 40 cases came for admission and we registered only 30 after assessing them for Autism. Among these children many of them are mild or moderate Autistic children who could manage their “Daily Living Activities” except for limited speech and social communication. Since the parents are very much interested in educating them like

the normal children in the Government Academic Schools, they find our curriculum not suitable for them and therefore the children are put in normal schools.

Even though the Government has trained some special teachers for this task and opened units in some parts of the country for disability children, the facilities are not like that in India. In India, these children are given special privileges, they are only to offer two subjects and not necessary to write both subjects at the same time, an interpreter is allowed with extra time to write the exam. If it is feasible in Sri Lanka, we can intake the mild and moderate children and give them a special care and education to appear for O/L and A/L examinations from our private schools.

Now we are left with children who will not fit into normal schools, because their social integration and cognitive abilities are limited. The training given to the teachers and the experience they have in handling these children are very less. When problem arises they find it difficult and struggle to solve them in an appropriate manner.

The behavior of each child is unique and will not be able to guess what they will do next. They have the habit of biting. All the plastic balls and toys are bitten and out of shape, the learning materials like Puzzles, Building Blocks and Show cards damaged by manhandling. They have also broken the window glasses and the plastic chairs and so on. These they do not do willfully but in their craving for some consolation and satisfaction.



Our speech therapist comes only for two days in a week. We arranged with our therapist and the parents who take children to regular schools in the morning to have individual treatment in the afternoon. All the 4 cases we arranged came, but did not

### **Our Activities.**

We did not have any medical assistance from the beginning of the center, even though the Director General of Health services approved to be considered as under the Hospital management. We approached the Director of the Teaching Hospital Batticaloa and the Doctors concerned on this matter and we might get a positive feasible settlement very soon.

At the moment we have 9 children attending school regularly. We conduct classes for them from 9.00 Am till 12.00 Noon and in the afternoon we give Speech Therapy only for school going Autistic Children.

continue due to our therapist takes leave without informing and they waste their time coming from far and due to inadequate treatment. We may have to restart this service using some other service minded people.

For the last 8 months we had the children to do all the activities in the common hall. This enabled us to mingle the children with the other peers and for social interaction and get to know each other. The teachers also could study their behaviours, likes and dislikes of each child. The disadvantage is that when one child get disturbed the other children also react to it and it takes time to settle them under control. We are thinking of separating them in class rooms giving a teacher to be in charge with set study program like “Structured Teaching” and “Individual Education Program” (IEP). We approached benefactors for assistance but since it is being the year end the organizations will make their budget proposals only in the beginning of the year 2018 and will have to wait for few more months for them to decide and allocate assistance.

### **Visit of Dignitaries.**

#### **The provincial of the Brothers of Charity.**

The Asian provincial cum Sri Lankan Regional Superior Rev. Bro. Bekaert Godfried. Fc. paid his annual visit to our Center on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. He was happy to see the renovated building and the beautiful surrounding suitable to conduct classes and training for the Autistic children. He donated an Amplifier Set for the use of the Center to entertain the children with music. We thank him for his concern and generosity.



#### **The Founder of IMHO-USA Dr. Mrs. Rajam Deadasan. MD. New York**

Dr. Mrs Rajam Devadasan paid a courtesy visit to our Center on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 coming all the way from United States. She showed interest and willingness to update the teachers ability by arranging a study program in the coming months. She was very keen in finding the activities going on and the necessary assistance for its improvement. We thank her for the ongoing financial assistance and the steps taken to train our teachers to impart a quality service to our children.



### **Celebrations.**

#### **World Children day.**

We celebrated the “World Children’s Day” on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. The parents conducted the event and gave their fullest support to make it a colourful one. Children from other schools also participated and performed dance items to entertain our children.

The Chief Guest Graced the Occasion was Dr. Mrs. K. Ganashalingam. Deputy Director. Teaching Hospital. Batticaloa and other distinguish guests from other Departments.



One parent mother of our children composed and sang a song of melancholy which touched the hearts of all the audience.

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fhyj;jpw;fha;.

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md;ghy; mutizf;f mjpgUk;>

ghrj;jhy; czT+l;Lk; MrpupaHfSk;>

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jPuzpak; vDkpy;yk; flTs;je;j tukhFk;.

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cq;fs; midtUf;Fk; ehq;fs; ed;wp nrYj;Jfpd;Nwhk;;.

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### **Year-end get together.**

We celebrated the Year-end Christmas celebrations joining our sister school “St. Joseph’s Special Education center” for adults of special need on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The Bishop of Batticaloa Diocese Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah was the Chief guest . Our children also gave a programme helped by the teachers holding their hands and dancing with them. The children were awarded with presents and they enjoyed dancing with the Christmas Papa at the end of the program.



### **Our Benefactors.**

1. We got a grant for SLRs. 60,000/= from “Our Society” based in England. Mr. K Arulanantham a member of the local coordinating agency helped to negotiate and the handing over ceremony will take place officially after opening of the Center on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018.
2. Mr. Stanly Chellapillai a son of the soil from Batticaloa Town now in Canada contributed generously from his earnings a sum of SLRs. 100,000/= for the use of the Center.

3. The estimate to renovate the Right wing of the first floor to be used as class rooms amounted to be SLRs. 900,000/= We approached the Commercial Bank and the Natton National Bank to contribute at least a part of the estimate , but our estimates are being sent to their Head departments and may have to wait for some more time.
4. An estimate for an Outdoor play materials also was given to the Dialog Company branch in Batticaloa and it is also pending.
5. There is an arrangement made by our sponsor IMHO – USA to send experts from abroad and conduct refresher courses in the beginning of the year for our teachers.
6. If the Teaching Hospital. Batticaloa also come forward to help us to look into the Medical side of our children periodically in the Speech, Psycho and other necessary therapies in our center it will be a great benefit for our children.

If we get these helps from all these various resources we will be fortunate to have an adequate setup to extend our service in a fitting manner.

*W. M. Michael F.c*

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Rev. Bro. W. M. Michael. F.c.  
Principal.