

REACH SEGAMAT

ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE
AND EDUCATION FOR
AUTISTIC CHILDREN



AUTISM

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a profound life-long mental disability which is believed to be caused by brain dysfunction.

This disorder is evident in early childhood and is a condition in which children are so withdrawn that they have difficulties in developing normal social and emotional relationships with the people around them, and in understanding the world in which they live.

Unable to understand what he sees, the autistic child tends to resist change and display temper tantrum. Odd repetitive behavior and obsessions are often seen as well. The child fails to learn how to play and has difficulty in learning to cope with people and situations.

The autistic child seems unable to process information effectively and this presents a barrier to normal development and communication. As language has little meaning for him, speech will be delayed and if acquired, will follow an abnormal pattern.

Hence, **diagnosing autism**, having skilled educational and social intervention at an **early stage** are essential for autistic children to achieve full potential and may reduce many of the problems associated with autism.

FEATURES OF AUTISM

SOCIAL

- Lack of eye contact
- May show no interest in other children playing
- May show no interest in Peek-a-boo or other interactive games
- Resist being held or hugged by parents

COMMUNICATION

- Delay or total lack in development of spoken language
- Echolalic: Copies words like a parrot
- Lack of creative and pretend play
- Unaware of environment
- Indicate needs by using an adult's hand

BIZARRE/REPETITIVE BEHAVIOURS

- Preoccupied with one aspect of an item; eg: spinning the wheels of a toy car
- Inflexible in the change of a routine
- Repetitive actions; eg: hand flapping, spinning or rocking

SELF INJUROUS

- Head banging
- Self biting
- Pulling out handful of hair

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

1. One-to-one Learning



-Provides individualised one-to-one teaching/learning sessions according to personalised curriculum of each child

2. Art & Craft



-Promotes self expression, improves fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination

3. Music



-Sessions are held on Saturdays to help the child develop language, speech & communication, social and motor skills

4. Group Play



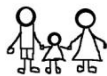
-Children are able to socialize and interact with each other

5. Pre-vocational



-Trains children to perform simple life skills like dressing up, cleaning, doing laundry and cooking

6. Family Group Therapy



-Parent support group for parents to meet, socialise, organise activities and support each other

SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Diagnostic and Developmental Assessment

-Provides free diagnostic & developmental assessment for the children

2. Resource/Library

-We are building up our library to provide printed and audio visuals on Autism. There will also be story books and other reading materials to encourage reading

3. Awareness Campaigns

-Organise exhibitions and talks to promote awareness of Autism to have earlier diagnosis, intervention and encourage understanding, tolerance and support from the public

4. Training

-Organise training sessions at *REACH Penang* to improve the skills of our teachers and volunteers

5. Buddy System

-Teenage children from mainstream schools are paired to each autistic child where they can play, teach, interact and communicate

CONTACT US

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ACT EARLY

