



The Spastics Society
of Tamil Nadu

HANDS ACROSS

JULY 2015

Tech Mahindra Foundation SOFTWARE to HEARTWARE



“Tech Mahindra Foundation [TMF] wins the National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR]”

Congratulations and Jubilations to Tech Mahindra Foundation [TMF] for winning and sweeping the National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR]

- Best Overall Excellence in CSR,
- Best Education Improvement Award, [school education Program]
- Best Innovations in CSR, [Employability Program]
- Outstanding Leadership Award, [for Ms Loveleen Kacker, CEO, TMF]
- 11th Indo-American Chamber of Commerce Corporate Excellence for CSR

TMF’s underpinning values and work of empowerment through education and taking social responsibility to promote inclusive growth strikes the right cord by partnering with Government and Non-Governmental organizations like SPASTN. Indeed these awards is an exceptionally keen gauge of how corporate partners in the nation building task of empowering communities and nurturing the aspirations of the disadvantaged. SPASTN –TMF partnership is 10years long and with their support we are reaching out through integrated play school and students with Autism at Taramani and Royapuram.

**YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!!**
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE

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**A VISIT FROM THE
SEA!**

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Professional Development – Bindaas Mumbai

Mrs.Raddamani, a Special Educator attended a week of training organized by Hilton Perkins and Voice & Vision, India.

Ms.Linda Hagood, Speech and Language Pathologist, USA was the trainer. The topic reflects the diversity we encounter in program planning and intervention for students with various needs.

Relationship based programming for students with Visual Impairment and Autism. Raddamani reported the sheer delight she had in travelling along to Bindaas Mumbai, interacting and making friends from various organizations and enjoying the street food of Mumbai. Raddamani not only enriched her professional skills but also recharged her physical / emotional batteries.

Turkish Naval Ship Officials come calling at SPASTN shores

Dr.V.L.Dutt, Consul General of Turkey was instrumental in facilitating the visit of naval officials to SPASTN. The visit was in addition to building diplomatic ties between India and Turkey, also a platform for a people to people contact with the non-government organization like SPASTN working with the people with disabilities. The officials of the Naval Ship took time to visit SPASTN, get to see our programs, activities and so as a gesture of goodwill presented 350 school bags with stationeries to our students. Not to miss an opportunity here our students are modeling their newest procession.



WISH LIST

We sincerely thank all those who spontaneously respond to some of our needs in the wish list. We urge others to step forward and support us for these needs.

- Semi-matured Trees
- Stationeries – A4 Papers
- King & Queen Bed Covers for Training



Thank you YVR !!



A ride of excitement

A happy ride in the Metro Rail!!

Parent and children with deaf-blindness and multisensory impairment checked out the Chennai Metro Rail zipping through some parts of Chennai in the sleek and elegant blue and silver four car train. Parents as they clutched their little children could barely contain their excitement as they peered through the city landscape on an elevated corridor air-conditioned comfort. Some of the children during the 20minute ride gave their thumbs up by dozing off as the train seamlessly chugged.



Sometimes a child may engage in vocal stimming when over aroused [to calm self] or under aroused [to alert self]. While some children I have noticed repeat phrases or words in some fun rhythmic patterns. I am aware vocal stimming can be very annoying and also interface in learning process.

One rule of thumb to remember is to consistently ensure under what control conditions the behavior can occur [for how long? Where? home, school, when? Alone etc.] and conditions where it is not allowed like school assembly, classroom etc. Once the rules around vocal stimming is consistently conveyed by means of social story or visual cues the teacher or parent can assure the child it is 'okay' to do in some conditions. Such rules have to be reviewed till the child "gets it" especially in places like classroom or assembly you do not want the child to do. Include a social story on how his behavior affects his teacher, friends or family. Time and place where they can safely stim, need to be reviewed

I recall reading somewhere that if a child is given a chewy substitute like gum or hard lollipop/popsicle we can provide a visual/verbal cue that "when I chew gum I do not make a sound". The teacher or parent has to be around to praise the effort of staying on task of chewing and not stimming. If any infractions occur merely redirect him to show the "STOP" cue card.

Letters to SPASTN

Dear Professional,

In one of your previous newsletter you had mentioned about body rocking issues related to children with autism. My problem is my son is always repeating same words or phrases.

Hello Mom,

Thanks. I am happy you are following our newsletter. To place the issue of your son in context, we need to be aware that we also engage in some forms of self-stimulation like nail biting, pencil rocking, doodling etc which serves to calm our emotions/nervous system. Once again I wish to remind all of us that self-stimulatory behavior - Physical stimming or Vocal stimming is both functional and adaptive. Our challenge [parents and professionals] is how do we make the child learn what self-stimulatory behavior is allowable in public as we facilitate a substitute behavior to serve the same function of calming the nerves. In vocal stimming where a child makes sounds [no words] can occur because he/she may enjoy the vibrations they experience from vocalizing and also a sense of control when they can control the rhythmic pattern of stimulation.

It is possible when your child is entering a stressful situation [novel], then lead him to a safe area where can stim to cope from being overwhelmed.



What we need to remember is to appreciate the child's "Need" to stim before we go on to regulate or suppress it. Hope these suggestions help.

IVI

Thank You YVR!!

Salubrious YVR Parents Lounge

A meeting point for our parents and a place to chill and cheer. Yoga-Vereinigung Rajagopalan, Germany e.V. [YVR] has consistently supported us over the years. The number of projects they have supported ranges from setting up of Sensory Integration Unit, Paper Cup Machine, Roofing of the Vocational Training Centre, Therapy Equipment and several other developmental initiatives. The Parent Meeting Point or the lounge area provides a very salubrious environment given that they escape the scorching sun and enjoy the breeze that passes through. Words of appreciation falls short in expressing our gratitude to YVR.

