

# 2019-20



Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism  
*(ASHA)* Charitable Trust

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## **OUR MISSION**

To render exceptional love, care, hope and educational assistance to children with special needs to help them develop and utilise their potential.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mr. P.R. Mundewadi, Chairman

Mr. J.R. Deshpande, Secretary

Mr. S. Hari Prasad, Trustee

Mr. A. Ravichandran, Trustee & Treasurer

Ms. Jayashree Ramesh, Trustee & Director

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# INTRODUCTION

Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA) Charitable Trust provides education along with a comprehensive set of therapies to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Starting with 3 children in a small rented building in 1995 today, 85 children are undergoing various intervention and therapies in the day school program. In over two decades, ASHA has evolved and developed capabilities and expertise to address the different needs of children of all age groups including adolescents. More than a thousand families have been supported in many different ways in over two decades.

## EARLY INTERVENTION

The early intervention training sets the path for all future skill building in children with special needs. This forms one of the most important service areas in special education. We have twenty four children below six years in our early intervention program along with the mothers or primary caregivers. We believe that a parent helped is a family helped. Our program involves special education, physiotherapy, speech therapy, counselling and parent training. This is also supported by dance and arts based intervention.



## PRIMARY EDUCATION

The program caters to the needs of children above the age of 6 years based on an individual education plan (IEP) that is created based on the child's needs, skills and parent expectations. It involves a mix of functional academics, communication, self help skills and life skills training. This is a full day program and a teacher-student ratio of 1:2 is maintained for a better learning experience.



## PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Involves teaching skills that will help the child above 12 years to maximize productivity in a vocational or a work environment and put them on the path towards self sufficiency. Activities involve following a set routine, assembly line etc.



## LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

Life skills are what enables a child to function independently in the community. It can involve something as simple as tying shoe laces and more complex activities like shopping independently.



## THERAPIES

Speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy bring significant difference in children with neurodevelopment disorders. Speech therapy improves communication, occupational therapy helps improve daily functioning skills and physiotherapy improves movement and motor skills.



## YOGA

Yoga has been known to bring significant improvement in body movement, flexibility and strength. In children with autism, yoga brings a reduction in anxiety, builds communication skills and improves the overall health and well being.





## **MUSIC THERAPY**

Music has been known to have therapeutic effects on children with special needs. It promotes communication, relaxation and activates parts of the brain that improves cognitive functioning. ASHA started music therapy this year and so far there has been marginal improvement in the children.



## **TECHNOLOGY AIDED INSTRUCTION**

Technology can be used to teach a variety of skills including early intervention, developing communication, pre-academic skills and vocational skills. The commonly used forms of technology are computers and iPad at ASHA.



# ASSESSMENT, TRAINING AND GUIDANCE CENTRE

The Assessment, Training and Guidance Centre is a part of ASHA. The centre was established in 2013 and provides screening for autism and learning disability, psycho educational assessments, early intervention, remedial sessions and counselling.

The centre is located in Mahalaxmi Layout and is easily accessible by the Bangalore Metro. In 6 years, the centre has helped more than a 100 children with remedial sessions and assessments. Families have been helped with counselling.

Since 2018-19, the centre conducts an early intervention program for children with learning and developmental difficulties below the age of 6 years.





## ASSESSMENTS

To understand a child's strengths and areas of needs, conducting assessments is important. The centre provides screening tools to detect learning difficulties, hyperactivity and autism as well as psycho-educational assessments to identify areas of need to suggest an intervention.



## REMEDIAL SESSIONS

The centre provides one on one remedial sessions for children with mild autism and learning difficulties. An individual education plan (IEP) is prepared for each child. These sessions address needs of children with autism and also support children with learning difficulties perform better in a mainstream school.



## COUNSELLING

Parents of children with a developmental delay or any special needs may face significant stress trying to balance expenses, work and household tasks. Many children in mainstream schools also face difficulty due to bullying, teasing among other things. To address these problems and help in adjusting, the centre provides counselling services to parents and children.



## COGNITIVE ANALYSIS

Hybrid Explore is a fingerprint based psychometric tool used to analyse the innate brain architecture in any individual. After administering the tool, a Personalised Learning Method (PLM) Chart or Multiple Intelligence (MI) chart is created for each child. According to hybrid systems, this tool helps teachers prepare an effective Individual Education Program. 17 children have used the tool and results are expected soon. The methods are non invasive and the approach is through finger printing.



## DENTAL CAMP

Dentists from the Department of Pedodontics from the Krishnadevaraya Dental College and Hospital, Bangalore came to our organization for a regular check up of all the children. The dentists took a lot of care and patiently conducted a thorough check up and suggested further treatment where required. The camp was held over two days - on the 14th and 18th June.



## DENTAL CAMP

Dr. Sahana Mahesh from the Department of Pedodontics and Preventive Dentistry from the V.S. Dental College and Hospital visited us and conducted a dental check up of all the children. The visit was on the 30th of August.

## CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The teachers created individual education plans (IEP) for each child and shared it with the parents at a meeting on the 23rd June. The teachers discussed what short term and long term goals they will be working on for the year and the activities with the parents and provided clarifications.

## ACADEMICS

Academic lessons started in July and teachers prepared relevant materials and worksheets.



Academic training is an important part of the school program. The younger children started with pre-academics - the foundation such as matching, sorting and naming before moving to alphabets and numbers. They also learnt the basic strokes such as standing, sleeping lines, curved lines and slanting lines.

The senior students worked with theme based lessons and writing on the black board. They also focussed on learning copying from a book and some of them learnt how to match a word with its picture. The focus was also on functional academics and learning social stories to understand how to be in social situations.

## Pre-vocational training

Pre-vocational activities are begun early to help the child become independent by the time he/she becomes an adult. Cooking and activities like filling, measuring were taught to the students.



## Motor Skills

The children from all classes are undergoing sports training to improve skills such as catching, kicking and throwing a ball. Sports also helps build agility and stamina. The children enjoy the sports session and look forward to it.

## GET CREATIVE!



Our art teacher Mrs. Bharathi Vittal Rao taught varied painting techniques and methods to the children. The methods vary depending on the skills and abilities of the child.

## Indoor extra curricular activities

Yoga has had tremendous benefits for our children. The children are more relaxed after each session. They have also built good strength and flexibility and has improved overall health.

## Outdoor extra curricular activities

Sports therapy are important to develop skills that may not be possible to teach in the classroom. Apart from improving overall health, sports has taught our students cooperation, turn taking, waiting and how to be in a group. The children enjoyed the sessions and showed progress.





## EARLY INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM

The Early Intervention Program is a continuing program from 2018. The program is designed to provide high quality training for children as well as parents by empowering the mothers.

The project helped the children and the parents immensely last year and we are replicating the program again for 2019-20. This year we have 24 children and mothers in the program.

The site of the project has moved to a new building in Mahalaxmi Layout, Bangalore. #287, 5th Main, 11th Cross, Mahalaxmi Layout, Bangalore - 560086.







## BUILDING SOCIAL SKILLS

The Building Social Skills Program is supported by Heart and Hand for the Handicapped, USA. One of the deficits in children with autism are social skills and it's imperative to address this deficit for the child to have a fulfilling life later on. With the support of our donor, we were able to arrange home visits to provide an opportunity for the students to engage with each other.

In August, as part of developing social skills in the children, Shreya's classmates and her teachers visited her house on the 14th August. These outings help the children learn how to conduct themselves when taken to someone's house, how to greet people and engage in small talk.

In September, Vinayaka's classmates and his teachers visited his house for lunch and the children got to experience a new environment and meet other people.

On the 4th December, Hrishi's parents hosted lunch for all his classmates and teachers. The students had a good time and enjoyed the day out.

In January, Darshan's classmates visited his house for lunch. The students greeted Darshan's parents, made small talk and then got a lot of goodies to eat!



## YOGA AND MUSIC THERAPY

Yoga has helped many of our children in a number of ways. Ms. Sudepta Shanbhag, the yoga teacher visits ASHA on a weekly basis and teaches yoga to all the children based on age and ability.

Music therapy sessions are also running well and the children enjoy the sessions and look forward to it.





## **PARTNERSHIP**

### **GLOBAL AUTISM PROJECT**



**AUTISM KNOWS NO BORDERS;**  
FORTUNATELY NEITHER DO WE.®

We partnered with the Global Autism Project in 2018. The Global Autism Project is a USA based non profit that is helping us in training and clinical support via their SkillCorps program and remote telehealth technologies.

The first team of 9 SkillCorps volunteers visited ASHA on the 22nd July and were with us till 2nd August. The 2 week visit brought relevant, high quality, on-the-ground training for our teachers. The team comprised experienced special educators, a speech language therapist and an early intervention therapist.



The Global Autism Project, through the weekly supervision calls is collecting data from our teachers to understand any behaviour challenges, provide suggestions to improve the activities and improve communication.

Our Director, Mrs. Jayashree Ramesh attended the Global Summit 2019 in Bali organized by the Global Autism Project from 14-16 August. The summit is a platform to inspire innovation, challenge new thinking, and establish action plans. The 3 days were packed with workshops, small group sessions, and interesting presentations from keynote speakers. Each International Partner, including ASHA had the opportunity to present and demonstrate successful programs or unique achievements from their organizations.



## **PARTNERSHIP GLOBAL AUTISM PROJECT**



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Eleven SkillCorps volunteers from Global Autism Project, USA visited ASHA from the 14th to 24th October. The group was composed of speech therapists and applied behaviour analysis therapists and helped us with many teaching and behaviour management processes. They helped the teachers in building and improving expressive communication. The visit also helped in simplifying data collection related to communication where teachers need to record videos and maintain a physical copy of number of prompts etc. The volunteers also conducted workshops for parents and teachers. The teachers workshop was on preference assessment to understand what motivates each child and how to use it to teach skills. This workshop was on the 19th October. The parents workshop was on the fundamentals of behaviour management on the 24th October.





## PROGRAM

### WOLFTRAP ART INTERVENTION

Ms. Valerie Carroll and Ms. Jennifer Edelen from The Wolf Trap Institute visited ASHA from 16th to 20th September to conduct art based sessions for all the students and teachers. Wolf Trap is a non profit organization in the USA that believes including arts in the school curriculum can create joyful, active learning experiences that engage children in ways that can increase academic and social-emotional development. The children from all classrooms attended one session on each of these days and enjoyed it very much. The sessions were structured with a welcome song, physical and vocal warm up exercises, the main activity and a closing activity using a variety of props. The teachers and parents observed many changes in the children including improved emotional expression, attention and expression of language.

Ms. Valerie and Ms. Jennifer also conducted two workshops for the teachers and parents on the effects of art as an intervention and how art can be used as a form of teaching in the classrooms.



## WORKSHOPS

### Teacher Training, May 2019

A week before the start of school for the children, teachers made presentations on a variety of topics related to teaching and autism. The presentations were made in groups and this helped in sharing of skills as well as learning before the start of the academic year. Our Director, Ms. Jayashree Ramesh attended each presentation and was discussed in detail.



### Self Help Skills, 18 June 2019

Self help skills are skills that enable us to look after ourselves independently. This includes brushing teeth, bathing, eating etc. To talk to the parents about the importance of this skill domain, Mrs. Shobha Karanth, a special educator conducted a workshop on Self Help Skills and Activities of Daily Living on the 18th of June. Mrs. Karanth spoke on how and when to start teaching these skills and gave real life examples as a mother of a young man with autism. The session was well received by the participants and they appreciated the practical tips given by the speaker.





## WORKSHOPS

### Parents Journey, 23rd June 2019

Getting intervention from a therapist at the earliest is one of the important steps to teaching a child with autism. But the parents are often the first therapists who spend the most time with the children and it is vital that intervention happens in the home environment and community too. We had Mr. Nagaraj and Mrs. Vani Nagaraj, parents of a young man on the autism spectrum who is living independently to inspire our young parents to work with the children at home. Mrs. Vani spoke on how she worked with her son everyday and involved him in day to day work to develop self care, pre learning skills and independent living skills. Mr. Nagaraj inspired the fathers with his account and how he used to take his son to community events to develop social skills and get him used to people. The parents, especially fathers were encouraged and spoke to Mr. Nagaraj even after the end of the session! The session was conducted on 23rd June.



### Music Therapy, 27 June 2019

Music has been known to be an effective aid to teaching for children as well as adults. Mrs. Revathi G., a music teacher and therapist conducted a session the 27th June for parents on how music therapy helps children with autism. She spoke on how ragas affect mood and demonstrated a few ragas. The parents were intrigued with the wide scope of music as a therapy and look forward to more such sessions on alternate therapies for autism.



## WORKSHOPS

### **Sensory Integration, 8th July 2019**

Some individuals with autism have sensory processing issues – they have difficulty in reacting to sound, touch, light etc. Ms. Sowmya Kuduvalli, a developmental psychologist and partner of HOPE - The Early Intervention Centre conducted the session on 8th July. She spoke about the 7 senses and demonstrated activities to reduce the symptoms of sensory processing disorders.

### **Mission 1000, 13 July 2019**

Mission 1000 is an initiative of Disability NGOs Alliance (DNA) with the aim of scaling livelihoods for persons with Severe, Developmental & Multiple Disabilities. This workshop conducted on 13th July by Ms. Varada Heggade, Ms. Roopa Reddy and Ms. Reshma of Enable India shared information about training and job opportunities for persons with disabilities. The session was followed by questions from many parents regarding job opportunities for persons with disabilities.



### **Siddha Medication for Autism, 18th July 2019**

Siddha is an Indian treatment approach using plant based medicine. The workshop on Siddha was conducted by Prof. Guna Magesan and Shri. Kaviarasu Balakrishnan in association with Manushyaa Blossom on 18th July. Prof. Magesan explained the principles of Siddha medicine and how it can help manage some of the symptoms of autism. A detailed assessment form was given to the parents in advance and medicines were prescribed after a detailed consultation.

## WORKSHOPS

### Painting, 6th Aug 2019

Mrs. Bharathi Vittal Rao, our art teacher conducted an art workshop for parents on 6th August. This time, the topic was to paint using simple techniques. Mrs. Bharathi took a lot of interest and helped parents - some of who had never lifted a paint brush since childhood! Art is an effective stress buster and the parents had a good time exploring their artistic side.



### My child is different, 18th Aug 2019

Dr. Krishna Thalagavara, a consultant psychiatrist at ASHA spoke to parents on the 18th of August on 'How to make your child special'. He explained the issues and challenges in raising a child with autism is different from other disabilities due to poor communication, sensory issues, food habits among others. He motivated the parents to look on the positives like concentration, attention and logical thinking which can be productive and engaging, thus reducing burden on care takers. He reiterated the role of immediate family members, care takers and professionals and importance of co ordination among all these to bring in positive results. Thirty five parents attended the session.





## WORKSHOPS

### Teaching Social Skills, 22nd August 2019

Social skills are skills that enable an individual to build and maintain relationships, how to get along with others and communicate their needs. Mrs. Renuka Jiothiswaroopan, a special educator, spoke to the parents on developing social skills in the home environment on the 22nd August. She stressed the need for exposing the child to different situations without hesitation, as the children have enormous capacity to learn. 45 parents attended the session.



### Behavioural Skills Training, 14th Sep 2019

Ms. Sarah Boone from the Global Autism Project visited ASHA on 14th September to conduct a workshop on behavioural skills training for teachers.

### Yoga, 26th Sep 2019

Mrs. Sudeepta Pramod Shanbhag conducted a workshop for parents on 26th September on Yoga for Children with Special Needs. The workshop included theory on the effects of yoga and was followed by a practical demonstration and hands on session where the parents tried some yoga poses for the benefit of the children.



## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Self Employment, 23 September 2019**

Disha - Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood conducted an orientation program on outreach and motivation training program to the parents. The session focussed on providing information about self employment, various schemes of skill development and other self employment schemes and bank loan schemes. The session was conducted on 23rd September.

### **Preference Assessment Training, 19th Oct 2019**

The SkillCorps volunteers from the Global Autism Project, USA conducted a workshop on preference assessment on 19th October. The workshop was meant for the teachers including therapists from the early intervention centre. The workshop helped understand what items or can be used to motivate the child to develop skills. These items can be things that the child likes. The workshop was helpful for all teachers.



### **Fundamentals of Behaviour Management, 24th Oct 2019**

The SkillCorps volunteers from the Global Autism Project, USA and Ms. Anupama, the behaviour therapist at ASHA conducted a workshop for parents on the Fundamentals of Behaviour Management on the 24th October. The workshop helped parents understand the nature of behaviour and how to manage behaviour problems. The parents had many questions about some behaviour problems and was addressed by the resource persons.



## WORKSHOPS

### **Behaviour Challenges, 5 November 2019**

On 5th November, Ms. Anupama, behaviour therapist at ASHA had an informal discussion with parents on behaviour challenges in younger children. She discussed on how behaviour should be considered as an attempt to communicate. The behaviour can be used to indicate needs, emotions or physical pain. Understanding and providing for this need can reduce the child's negative behaviours. Behaviour issues can be addressed by first understanding the background and then planning and implementing strategies consistently.

### **Challenging Behaviour, 28th Nov 2019**

A second workshop on challenging behavior was conducted by Ms. Anupama on the 28th Nov. She focused on the nature of behavior, the origin of difficult behaviors and how to manage them. The session helped parents immensely as many children display difficult behaviours and parents feel overwhelmed at times.



### **Understanding Training Needs of Adolescents, 28 Nov 2019**

In the afternoon of the same day, Mrs. Jayashree Ramesh, Director, ASHA spoke on 'Understanding Training Needs for Adolescents'. She spoke on the importance of training children in different skill areas and the need to develop functional skills based on the capabilities of the individuals. She elicited from the parents on what skills can be taught at home and how they can start at a very early age. She explained the need to develop technical/vocational skills and soft skills associated if they hope to get their children ready for employment.





## **WORKSHOPS**

### **Expressive Communication, 12 December 2019**

On 12th December, Ms. Shubhra Shankar Vinay, a speech pathologist spoke to the parents about improving expressive communication through practical tips and suggestions. The resource person explained how good expressive skills can help reduction in behaviour problems and better learning. Expressive language is also important for the child to express her/his needs.



### **Understanding Language Development, 22 Dec 2019**

Ms. Shubhra Shankar Vinay conducted a second workshop on the 22nd December on understanding language development & improving expressive skill in non /verbal children. She explained the complete process of language development in an individual and gave practical tips on how to build and encourage good language skills. The workshop was attended by 50 parents.

### **Improving Expressive Communication, 29 Dec 2019**

On 29th December, Ms. Shubhra Shankar Vinay, a speech pathologist spoke to the parents about improving expressive communication through practical tips and suggestions. The resource person explained how good expressive skills can help reduction in behaviour problems and better learning. Expressive language is also important for the child to express her/his needs.

## WORKSHOPS

### **Life Skills and Yuva Spandana, 19 Jan 2020**

A workshop on life skills was conducted by Mr. Srujan, Field Coordinator; Mr. Shivakumar and Ms. Swathi of Yuva Spandana on 19th January. The workshop helped learn what life skills are how it is important.

### **Hygiene and Sexuality**

Dr. Gifty Joel, a sex education consultant conducted 5 sessions for parents of children from different age groups. These sessions are vital for all parents to understand their children's growing needs and cater to them. The sessions were conducted on 20th, 21st, 23rd, 27th and 30th January.

### **Experiential Learning and First Aid**

A workshop was conducted on 24th January 2020 at Rotary Hall, Malleshwaram on Experiential Learning and Basic First Aid by Mr. Sunand Sampath.



### **Sleep Difficulties, 29 January 2020**

Dr. Krishna Thalagavara, a psychiatrist conducted a session on sleep difficulties for parents on the 29th January.

First Day of School

The children started school on the 3rd June 2019. It was great to have the children back after a gap of more than a month. Most of them were happy to come back and meet their teachers!

## COMPETITIONS

### SPLASH ART COMPETITION

Concern India Foundation organised Splash - a sit and draw activity for specially abled children on the 20th September at Bal Bhavan. Venkat Srinidhi from ASHA got the 3rd prize.



### KALAANGANA 2019

Kalaangana is an inter school talents festival conducted by Information and Resource Centre, Bangalore. Schools from Karnataka and Chennai participated in the event. The event was held from the 19th to 21st November. The various events included art, yoga, dance, music among others. The children from our school won many prizes! Ashish and Aathmik won the 2nd and 3rd prize in dance and Tushar won a special prize for group drum circle. A special educator from ASHA, Ms. Anitha received the special educator's award. Ms. Sathya received the care taker's award.





## SPORTS MEET

ASHA celebrated its Annual Sports Meet on the 8th September supported by Oracle Volunteers and Rotary Bangalore West. The event was held at the Vidya Vardhaka School Grounds, Rajajinagar. The chief guests for the event were Mr. Hariharan Srinivasan, Software Development Manager, Oracle, Ms. Sarah Boone, Global Autism Project, USA and Mr. Balachandra M.N., President, Rotary Bangalore West.

The event began with the march past, chief guests' speech before moving on the children's activities. The event ended with volunteer games for all the volunteers from Oracle and snacks for all the children.



## ANNUAL DAY



The students of our organization and children from the mainstream put up a combined on stage performance – ‘Swaragini’ where they sang, danced and put up a short play in front of parents, teachers, our donors and well wishers.

The cultural program on 7 March consisted of a series of dances performed by the children and teachers, a shadow play performed by both children with autism and neurotypical, a play before ending with a drum circle performed by fathers and children.

The 90 minutes performance had the audience enchanted and thrilled! The whole event was inclusive with 130 participants on the stage.





## **AWARENESS AND OUTREACH BIG BAZAAR AUTISM QUIET HOUR**

We are proud to associate with Big Bazaar on its nationwide initiative to introduce autism quiet hour at all its stores across India. Big Bazaar is one of the major retail chains of hypermarkets. The chain launched the initiative in the Rajajinagar and Malleshwaram stores. The features of the autism Quiet Hour are: dimmed lights, reduced trolley movement, additional seating areas, no announcements, dedicated play zone and sensitized staff.

Our role was to sensitize the staff at both stores about autism, its features and how to help families and individuals shop at the store. The sensitization session was conducted on the 8th and 9th November by Mrs. Jayashree Ramesh and the team from ASHA.

The first autism Quiet Hour was conducted on the 12th November 2019 at both the stores from 10 to 11am. The staff at both stores were supportive and engaged with the children at the play zone and kept it fun and interesting. The parents' feedback was positive regarding the initiative. The check out process in particular was quick and staff engagement was highly appreciated. Quiet Hour shopping experience is now offered every Tuesday, 10 - 11 AM in 35 stores across India. Our students will utilize this opportunity couple of times every month.





# VOLUNTEERING AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES

## Visit to the Planetarium

The volunteers from a corporate company accompanied 40 children to the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium on 11th July. The visit to the planetarium helped children experience a new environment, gain a basic understanding of the solar system, stars and principles of science.

The volunteers explained to the children in a simple manner and helped the children understand the solar system and its science.



## Bannerghatta National Park

All 60 children of the school were assisted by volunteers to navigate the Bannerghatta National Park. The volunteers took excellent care of the children, explained to them about animals, plants and trees. This fun trip was on the 18th of July.



Sixty children and their teachers visited Bannerghatta National Park accompanied by our volunteers again on the 6th of September. The activities were meticulously arranged by the volunteers and snacks were arranged. The outing was a fun and interesting experience as the children got to see animals apart from in picture books.

## FUN IN THE PARK

Twenty five children and their mothers visited Cubbon Park accompanied by our volunteers on the 2nd of August. The children were from the Early Intervention Program. The volunteers arranged for games for the children and the mothers along with snacks. The experience was fun and the mothers got to socialise with others and the children had a fun filled day.



## MUSEUM

The volunteers from a corporate company accompanied 45 children to the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum on 7th August. The visit helped children understand and explore the basic principles of science. Since all the exhibits can be tried hands on, the learning was fast. The volunteers were enthusiastic and explained the exhibits to the children patiently. On the 29th November, as part of Deloitte CSR program, volunteers from the company organized a children's fun day and conducted art, paint and fun filled games for the children. The project ended with the rhythmic beats of the drum circle performed by our students and the enthusiastic volunteers. We thank the volunteers for their interest and energy.



## RECOGNITION

We were given the 1st place among special education schools in India by Education World India School Rankings 2019-20. We are very grateful to all the families, staff, donors, supporters, volunteers, friends and family who have stood with us over the last two and a half decades to bring out the best in us. The award ceremony was on the 28th September in Delhi where Mrs. Jayashree Ramesh, Director, ASHA received the award.



## TESTIMONIALS

“Regarding our experience with ASHA, we were very happy with your school and staff. Staff were very considerate, knowledgeable and I think the amount of activities and events done by the school is a testament to the importance you place for special kids. My thanks to Aarika’s teachers and the principal.” Arun Amarson, Aarika’s father

“We were happy with all the 3 classes he was in. We were amazed and happy with the cleanliness of the classes and the school as a whole. The 3 teacher concept in each class was helpful for the children and the main teacher as well. A special mention about Mrs. Bhanu, Mrs. Kanchana and Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari. All of them have a unique way of working with the children. They are very dedicated towards their job and passionate towards the children. The sports day, annual day gave a chance for us parents to witness our children perform on stage and win medals.”

Ms. Somasundari, Kavinolli’s mother