



**News from DIYA's intervention centre for children with autism,  
Tirunelveli, South India**

**April-June 2019**

We've had a wonderful three months and are well into our summer holidays now. Most of the families have left on their summer break – so it's been kind of quiet. It's a good time to take stock of what we've done so far and what lies ahead in the academic year.

One of the changes we've been able to implement this last term, has been the division of our centre into two sections – an early years section and a middle years/ pre-vocational centre. This has been mainly because we've had a number of families approach us over the last term, asking therapy for very young children.

The Early Years section remains downstairs, while for the older kids, we have sort of sun-proofed an area in the terrace upstairs. We have about 4 boys and 1 girl working there with two teachers. While they do some work on basic academic skills and language/ communication skills, the primary emphasis is on pre-vocational skills. We've identified making paper bags as a possible vocational skill. Towards this, children learn to cut, stick, and crease paper.



*Above: The pre-vocational group working upstairs (physiotherapy and special education)*

We are looking to raise funds to making the area above more child friendly. As priority, we need a toilet upstairs. Currently, it's a bit of a long journey downstairs to use the toilets; especially for those of our children with significant deficits. We've had the occasional accident en-route. We've

received a quote of Rs. 1.5 lakhs to construct a toilet. We would welcome any donations towards this.



*Above: The pre-vocational group working upstairs (adaptive skills and special education)*

The Chief Minister's scheme continues to be a great blessing to us. We've been able to recruit yet another teacher, using the funds. We've also been able to hire an auto to transport our children to and from the bus stop. This was a huge blessing to families, especially over the summer months.

**Kodaikanal:** Work is going well in Kodaikanal. This summer has been particularly busy for Kumar. We pray that things will continue to change at the hospital and it will be a source of blessing for many generations to come.

You might remember Muneeshwari, that we requested prayers for last time. She's had a successful surgery. And by God's grace, is now walking, with the help of devices. This has been a huge step forward for her, as this means that integration into a mainstream school is even easier. For now, she will start back at her new school this June; parents feel that now she is mobile, she will integrate better, without needing a change in schools. Please pray for this.

**Address:** 414, Coxford Road, Southampton, SO16 5LL

**Charity Registration:** 1142488. **Company House Registration:** 7578626

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