

Taaro ke Bacche

A school for children
with autism & Down's syndrome

तारों के बच्चे



Newsletter – March 2016

News from the association in Geneva

A general meeting will take place some time in April 2016; the exact date will be announced nearer the time. During this meeting we will present the budget of 2015.

In September 2015, shortly before leaving Geneva, Marie-Françoise was convinced by an Indian friend of hers, Seema, that she should file an application with the United Nations Women's Guild to request some funding for an office, some computer equipment and a library for the school. The project was accepted and a sum of 5,000 CHF was sent to the Swiss association Taaro ke Bacche.



We are very grateful to all our generous donators.

School life in Varanasi



Agrat left the school in December 2015, as his family moved to another city for his mother's job. Since then Agrat has been admitted part-time in a specialised educational centre.

Shambhavi has regained some strength, but she is still not able to join us. Marie-Françoise visits her family from time to time to keep in touch with them.

Our biggest challenge this winter has been the integration of **Kanha** (4 years-old) in our school. We have set up an individualised intervention program for him in the presence of either his mom or his dad.

Thus, since early February 2016, we have asked Kanha's parents to accompany him in the morning and to leave him alone at noon for the activities. We are planning to extend this schedule gradually from a morning to a full-day care. After a few days of crying and tantrums, Kanha now understands that he will find his parents after school, and he is always happy to take the bus with the other children.



Vishal recently celebrated his 11th birthday. He is becoming a teenager, with all the behavioural issues related to his age for our support team to deal with!

Niyanta has been developing some new language and social skills. She now seeks to initiate relationships with her peers.

This winter, we have also met some new children:

- a new boy with autism: **Aaradhya**, 2 years old. After Marie-Françoise met his mother twice within the school, we offered to work with the child for some regular home sessions. Since then we haven't heard from them again; we believe it is very likely that

mother is waiting for father's approval to contact us again...

- a boy with Down's syndrome, **Krish** (age 7) whom Marie-Françoise had met 5 years ago during a visit to Kiran. Krish comes from a very poor family who lives at the other end of our transportation route. Before Marie-Françoise left, we had thought about setting up a day care 3 times a week with private autorickshaw transportation for him. However, the organisation of this project has been taking more time than expected, so instead, for the next 6 months, we have opted for some home support by one of our educators.



Alongside the care of our children, Marie-Françoise has been busy with the foundation of an Indian NGO called "New Hope", with some Indian friends from Varanasi. This NGO was registered on 1 March 2016, and its mission is to serve the cause of children with autism and Down syndrome, as well as to open some more schools in the future.

We still need to solve the following issues:

- to look for a new location for the school, on the ground floor of a bigger house,
- to deal with some tricky Indian bureaucracy issues,
- and other issues will come up...

2 April is World Autism Awareness Day, and for this occasion we are planning to organise a walk for autism awareness with another school in Varanasi.

Some more photos of our life in Varanasi



Our website:

www.taarokebacche.org