

# Zaaro ke Bacche

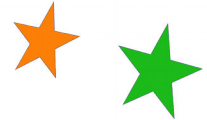
A school for children  
with autism & Down's syndrome

Children of the stars

तारों के बच्चे



in Varanasi (India)



## Newsletter – March 2018

### News from the Association in Geneva

In Marie-Françoise's absence in winter 2017-2018 the Swiss association in Geneva continued its regular work: accounting, reception and updating of mail, etc.

For the last two years we have been organising a concert in September. This year we will organise a fundraising meal with the support of the former owner of the "Rajput" restaurant. This event will take place on **22 September 2018**, probably in the hall of the Dardagny Castle. It will be followed by a small cultural event.



*Two friends: Kartik & Krish*

In December 2017 we received a donation of CHF 10'000 from the **Lord Michelham of Hellingly Foundation** for the purchase of a second vehicle. We have not yet found a way to transfer this amount to India.

In January 2018 we received a donation of CHF 14'000 from **Mrs. Solange Demole of the Albatross Foundation** for the running costs of the school and a donation of CHF 1'000 from **the municipality of Dardagny**.

We have submitted a file to **the Town of Meyrin** requesting support for our new project, i.e. an early-intervention programme with care for young children and mothers.

We are currently drafting a grant application file for the Commune of Lancy.

We are most grateful to all our generous donors.

Fundraising is a major part of Marie-Françoise's work when she is in Geneva.

Our project is growing in terms of human and financial resources and we are facing new challenges. For example, it is essential that we expand our network of donors if we want to meet our budget for 2018. Any suggestions of new contacts are most welcome.

Our next AGM will be held on **Thursday 3 May 2018 at 8 pm.**



*Pragya & Om sharing an activity*

### *School life in Varanasi*

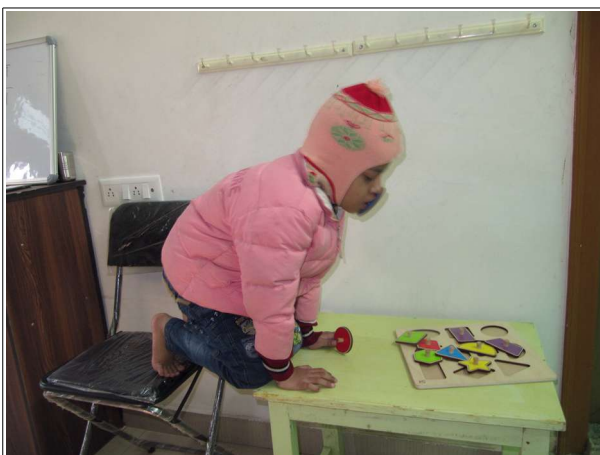
We now have a regular group of five children aged 7 to 13 and a new group of four children aged 3 to 6, with their mothers, twice a week for the early intervention programme. In response to their mothers' requests, we are hoping to gradually increase the frequency for the younger children to five days a week.



*The little ones with their mothers*



*Pragya & Yash*



*Yash : It's even cold inside!*

The youngsters' mothers also have a programme to follow at home. Our approach, based on play and motivation, helps the children **to develop skills in all areas of their development**, through pleasant and natural socio-emotional relationships. Our methods are based on interactive play as developed by the Grow Mind method.

Marie-Françoise expressed her feelings about the new group: *"I am so deeply moved, sometimes it brings me to tears to see and share the courage, motivation and affection of these young mothers who deal with their children's condition. We all know what a challenge it is for them to bring up a child with autism, and how tiring and mentally distressing it can be."*

We had to find a solution to the problem of transport. While waiting to be able to buy a second bus we have hired a driver who owns his own vehicle.

### **Important events:**

In December 2017 we held a meeting with parents. It gave our staff the opportunity to talk to them about their children's progress and to discuss projects concerning their future development in terms of socialisation, cognitive learning and autonomy, verbal or nonverbal communication, etc.

In January 2018 we ran a workshop on Sensory Integration for children with autism, animated by Mr. Ganesh, a visiting physiotherapist and occupational therapist. Participating parents and staff all showed a keen interest.



*Workshop on Sensory Integration in children with autism*

In February 2018 we had a visit from our friend Ena, an Indian citizen living in Geneva, who is sensitive to autism.

We also took part in the Special Olympics organised by the Varanasi Ministry of Sports, for children and young people living with disabilities. Three of our children participated in ball throwing and in a 20 meter race.



*Waiting for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics*



*Each children's group from different schools in procession*

Our school has also had an impact in the University of Varanasi, Banaras Hindu University, as one of their students is currently doing an internship with us as part of her research project and PhD related to autism. We recently received an internship request from a trainee clinical psychologist.

The current situation shows that autism is becoming better understood and diagnosed in India and treated with relevance and competence.

Indian society is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of education for all, regardless of particularities and differences.

For World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April we are preparing a small public event with other institutions that welcome children with autism.

Some more pictures of our life in Varanasi

*Musique & dance with Fanny*



*Yash*



*Cleaning the small children's room*



*26 January - Republic Day,  
a public holiday in India*

**Our website:**  
[www.taarokebacche.org](http://www.taarokebacche.org)