



MORRIS FOUNDATION

www.morrisfoundation.in

BOLD

Bridging Over Learning Disabilities

EDITION 1 . DECEMBER 2017

ANJALI MORRIS FOUNDATION A BRIEF OVERVIEW



The Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation (AMF), an NGO registered as a section 25 Company under the Companies Act, 1956, was founded in 2008 by Dr. Anjali Morris and Late Mr. Umakant Joshi. The Foundation assists students with at-risk of Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) by providing them high-quality evidence-based interventions.

AMF Programs

1. FOR CHILDREN:



Bridging Over Learning Differences (BOLD) Program- Assessment and intervention services for children struggling to cope up with academics and at-risk of Specific

Learning Disabilities (SLD)

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Clinic – Assessment and guidance clinic.

2. FOR PARENTS:

To encourage parent participation.



'Nischaya' - Parent Support Group - A platform to guide the parents on varied topics related to special education, intervention strategies, parenting skills etc. by renowned and experienced experts. Also provides a scope for parents to exchange ideas and share experiences.

3. FOR PROFESSIONALS:

Initiating teaching-learning process!
Teachers Training Program

-Morris Foundation and Sunderji's Institutions have recently launched a "Certificate Course for Skill Development in Special Education (Learning Disabilities, Autism and Intellectual Disability)" in collaboration with Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth (Trust), Pune (Centre for Skills Development & Entrepreneurship Education).

The course provides information on concepts, identification and assessment, intervention etc. for SLD and Autism Spectrum Disorders.



- A 6 days theory program in Marathi to seek an overview on Specific Learning Disabilities and to learn the basics about SLD, ADHD, assessment and intervention followed by 8 sessions of practicum program spread over 4 months.

4. TECHNICALLY ASSISTED PROJECTS: *An AMF initiative to expand its services!*

A collaboration with schools to help establish their independent intervention centre to reach maximum number of children experiencing challenges. 🙌

JOURNEY UP TILL NOW...

Since its inception, AMF has assisted more than **3000 students and trained more than a thousand professionals.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- #1 Children with SLD have difficulties in basic skills of reading, writing and math.
- #2 There are no medical tests to diagnose SLD. Beware of unethical practices around you.
- #3 There are no medical treatments for SLD. Systematic high quality interventions by trained professionals are needed.
- #4 SLD runs in the families. Find out if any of the close or a distant family member had difficulties with learning in the past.
- #5 SLD is not caused due to low socio-economic conditions, disturbed family environment, emotional or other social factors. They are also not caused due to "bad-parenting".
- #6 Males report high incidences of SLD than females. The exact reason is unknown.
- #7 SLD is NOT the same as Intellectual Disability (Earlier known as Mental Retardation) OR Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) OR Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD). They all are different.

SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS (SLD)



Specific Learning Disabilities means a **heterogeneous group of conditions** wherein there is a **deficit in processing language, spoken or written**, that may **manifest** itself as a difficulty to **comprehend, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations** and includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities , dyslexia, Dysgraphia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and developmental aphasia.

- *The Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016*



.... persistent difficulties in **reading, writing, arithmetic, or mathematical reasoning skills** during formal years of schooling. Symptoms may **include inaccurate or slow and effortful reading, poor written expression that lacks clarity, difficulties remembering number facts, or inaccurate mathematical reasoning...**

- *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, 5th Edition* 🙌



SUCCESS STORY

A JOURNEY FROM A TO Z

Our son, Zaid is ten and a half years old. He was born prematurely and kept in the NICU for three months as a preventive measure. As parents, we did not notice any difficulties during his pre-primary and primary years; but as he went into the 4th grade, some difficulties surfaced: his attention span began to waver and math became his favorite subject. He seemed to struggle with language arts. As is common practice in India, we took him to a government-run hospital for an evaluation and some guidance for what we recognized as learning difficulties.

At the time, Zaid was studying in the 4th grade and was unable to blend simple two and three letter words. He showed very little interest in reading and writing and inconsistently showed interest in math. We were worried.

The report from assessments conducted at the hospital indicated that Zaid had an average intellectual ability and we were further referred to the Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation (AMF) in Pune for further interventions. At AMF, the psychologists reviewed Zaid's previous reports from school and other professionals, took a detailed interview with us and conducted their own assessments. After a comprehensive evaluation of Zaid's strengths and needs, they started systematic interventions.

The interventionists guided us at every step and updated us with his achievements. They made us realize that every child has strengths, is unique and it is important to look beyond limitations.

As part of the intervention plan, the main focus was to develop his basic components of reading such as phonemic awareness, phonics, accuracy, then fluency and vocabulary. To begin with, he was systematically taught blending, isolation and manipulation of sounds. Zaid also was provided a 110-lesson scripted intervention from the Empower™ Reading Decoding and Spelling Program.

In addition, at home, we practiced everything that the interventionists at AMF recommended. In a few months, Zaid began to show improvement in his skills and more importantly, felt good about himself!

Due to the Empower program and all the earlier interventions there was a significant improvement in what Zaid could do. All of this reflected in his performance in school. He was finally able to read and write small passages and there were moments of rejoicing in our family! In addition, Zaid evolved as an individual and learning was no longer a burden.

This is what all parents want, isn't it? We parents want to do what's best for our children. We seek guidance, support and want to gain the knowledge so as to provide our children with more opportunities and a better life. We are very willing to be team players and help our children overcome their difficulties.

We seek professionals who will spend time and tell us what we need to do. Our family truly found the perfect fit for our needs: a place that cared, listened to us and held our hands every step of the way.

Morris Foundation was that place!!!

Mrs. Rubina Shaikh, India 🙌

SNAPSHOT PROGRAMS & INTERVENTIONS



A MOMENT TO REJOICE

INDIA WELCOMES THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016



The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (the "Disabilities Act, 2016") along with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 (together, the "Disability Law") has been enacted by the Indian government in December 2016. Below are a few salient highlights of the Act.

#1 Use of people's first language!

'Disabled persons' have been categorized as: (i) persons with disability; (ii) persons with benchmark disability and (iii) persons with disability having high support needs.

#2 "Fair is not everyone getting the same thing, fair is everyone getting what they want!"

(From the book "Differentiated Classroom" by Carol Ann Tomlinson, an American educator, author and speaker.)

Now the act includes **21 types of disabilities as 'specified disabilities'**. Earlier, The Disabilities Act, 1995 covered only 7 types of disabilities. Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) is newly included!!!!

#3 The act has a well-defined Equal Opportunity Policy.

To learn more visit www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in 🙌



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