



MONTFORT CARE

EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRE

A PROGRAM UNDER THE STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF & APHASIC



ANNUAL REPORT
2024-25

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Early Intervention Centre for children with hearing loss. We identify, intervene and rehabilitate children within the critical age of 5 years. Our program is designed to support children with hearing impairment by providing timely interventions that help develop age-appropriate listening, speech, and language skills, enabling their seamless integration into mainstream society.

SINCE
2018



Vision

Enabling all children with hearing loss to live to their fullest



We raise awareness on hearing health, screen children (0-6 years) to identify hearing challenges, refer them to nearby hospitals for timely intervention. With the right support—Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT), speech development programs, and assistive hearing technology—each child discovers their own voice and the confidence to use it.

But this journey isn't just about the child. Parents and caregivers are at the heart of it. We stand with them, offering guidance on hearing devices, auditory brain development, and help in creating a communication-rich home. Together, we help children transition smoothly into a world where they can listen, speak, and truly belong.

Every child deserves the chance to be heard—and we are here to make that happen.

Mission

We enable the early detection and intervention of hearing loss among children through conducting sensitization activities, screenings, and rehabilitation services.

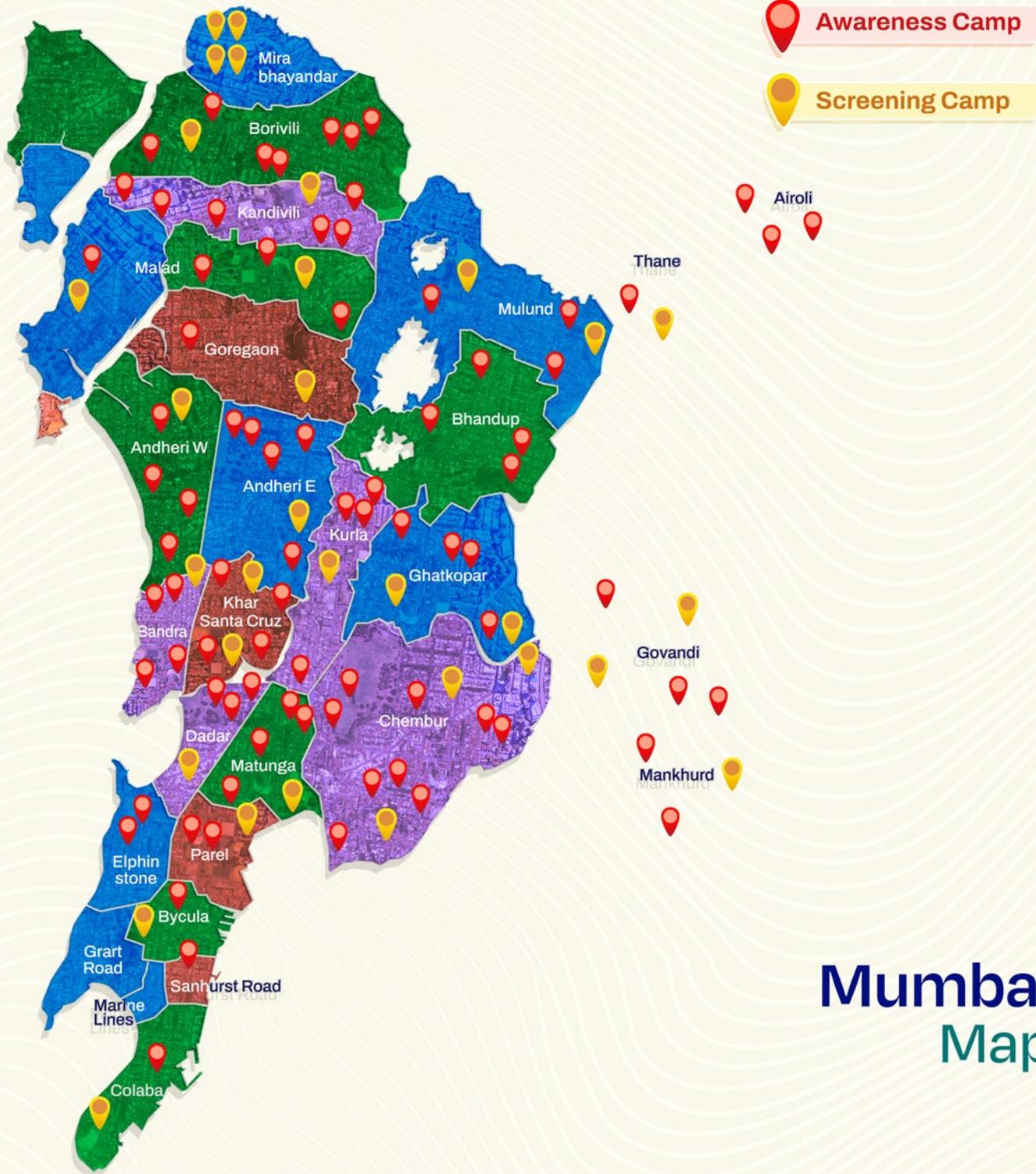
About Us

As an Early Intervention Centre with a team of audiologists, speech therapists, educators and social workers we actively reach out to communities, hospitals, and schools through awareness and screening programs, making early identification and intervention accessible to all.

Every child deserves the chance to communicate, connect, and thrive. At our center, we walk hand in hand with children with hearing loss, guiding them from silence to a world full of sounds.



Geographical Outreach



Mumbai Map

Chart : 1

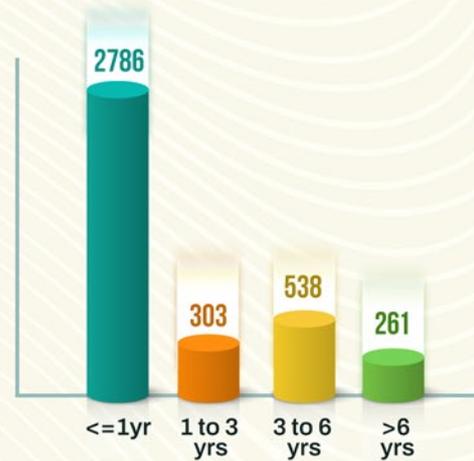
Children supported through Camps



Children supported through Camps, Speech and other disabilities through various camps conducted in and around Mumbai.

Chart : 2

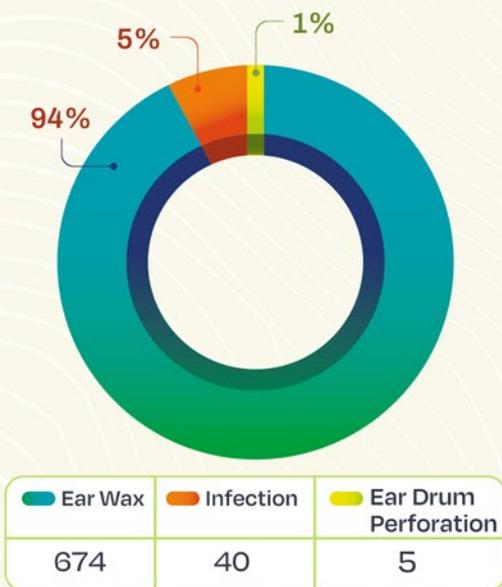
Agewise children screened for hearing loss



Children screened for hearing loss, and ear related issues

Chart : 3

Number of Ear related issues identified



percentage of ear related issues identified and referred through screening camps

Chart : 4

90.62% children showed progress through speech and language



Chart : 5

70.45% children started schooling in a formal education set up



Chart : 6

8 Children implanted through our collaboration



Chart : 7

14 Hearing Aids fitted and programmed



Hearing Health Awareness Camps

05



Our awareness programs are designed to equip **community, NGOs, health workers, school teachers, medical professionals** with essential knowledge about hearing health. We actively dispel common myths and misconceptions surrounding hearing impairment, providing clear and practical information about recognizing early symptoms and the benefits of hearing technology, such as hearing aids and cochlear implants, in enhancing communication.

These awareness camps are conducted 2-3 times in a week in collaboration with organizations, we ensure that communities receive accurate, accessible, and actionable information to support children with hearing loss effectively. We focus on good hearing practices, easy ways to identify hearing loss.

Numbers



6016 Beneficiaries



6 children identified with Hearing Loss.



150 Awareness camps



5 children referred to other disability centres.



Knowledge increase



Pre session 55.11%,
Post Session 77.04%



"Spreading awareness about hearing loss and ending the shame around it is very fulfilling. Every parent who takes a step to help their child brings us closer to change."



AKSHAY GAWALI
Social Worker

"We connect medical experts with young children, making sure they get help early so no child misses out on a bright future because of hearing loss."



VISHAL MAHAKALKAR
Social Worker

Screening Camps

We believe that early detection is the cornerstone of successful **rehabilitation** for children with hearing loss. We conduct free hearing **assessments** for newborns, infants, and young children. In **collaboration** with hospitals and community health centers, we conduct free hearing assessments. Our screenings help **identify** children with potential hearing loss, ensuring timely referrals for further diagnostic evaluations and early intervention.

Beyond screenings, we **counsel** and guide parents, helping them understand their child's learning milestones and developmental progress. Additionally, our assessments help detect ear-related issues such as impacted wax or infections—conditions that, if left untreated, could lead to **hearing loss**.

We are working towards a future where every child with hearing challenges receives timely **support**, ensuring they can thrive and reach their full potential.



Impact

- Our efforts have made a tangible impact. One government hospital in Santacruz has now established an Audiology Department, enhancing access to hearing healthcare.
- We have also trained nurses in government hospital of Dombivli and Kalyan in conducting basic hearing screenings using Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE).
- Expanding our reach further, our team actively screens children in semi-rural areas of Mumbai which are largely left ignored including Mira-Bhayandar, Kalyan-Dombivli and Ulhasnagar

Numbers



3835 children screened for hearing loss.



15 children identified with Hearing Loss.



4 children referred to other disability centres.



265 No. of Screening camps conducted

“

“Newborn screening ensures the best possible start for a baby in the world of sound.”

”

OMKAR BHANDARI
Technician



Auditory Verbal Therapy

06

Auditory Verbal Therapy is to help children develop strong listening and speaking skills. Ideally, therapy lasts about 2–3 years to ensure solid language acquisition. The therapy focuses on four key areas: **language, speech, cognition, and audition**, ensuring comprehensive communication development. The program prioritizes the development of auditory skills by training children to detect, discriminate, and comprehend spoken language through their hearing technology. All our therapists are experienced, energetic and adaptable to match the energies of very small children. We provide therapy in multiple languages—including English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, and other regional languages—making our services accessible to a wide range of families.



Each child's journey begins once their hearing devices are fitted. We start with a baseline assessment to understand their current abilities and set personalized learning goals. Together with parents, we create an individualized plan as per their child's unique needs. We believe parents play a crucial role in their child's progress, so therapy isn't just about working with the child—it's also about empowering parents. Our sessions last an hour, with the final 15 minutes dedicated to guiding parents on simple, age-appropriate activities they can incorporate into daily life to reinforce learning. It's a collaborative process, ensuring that learning continues well beyond the therapy room.



“ Every sound becomes a stepping stone to language, and every moment is an opportunity to listen, connect, and grow ”.



PRANITA GOLAMBADE
Therapist

“ Therapy for hearing impaired kids is about understanding beyond words, creating a world where they feel seen and valued ”.



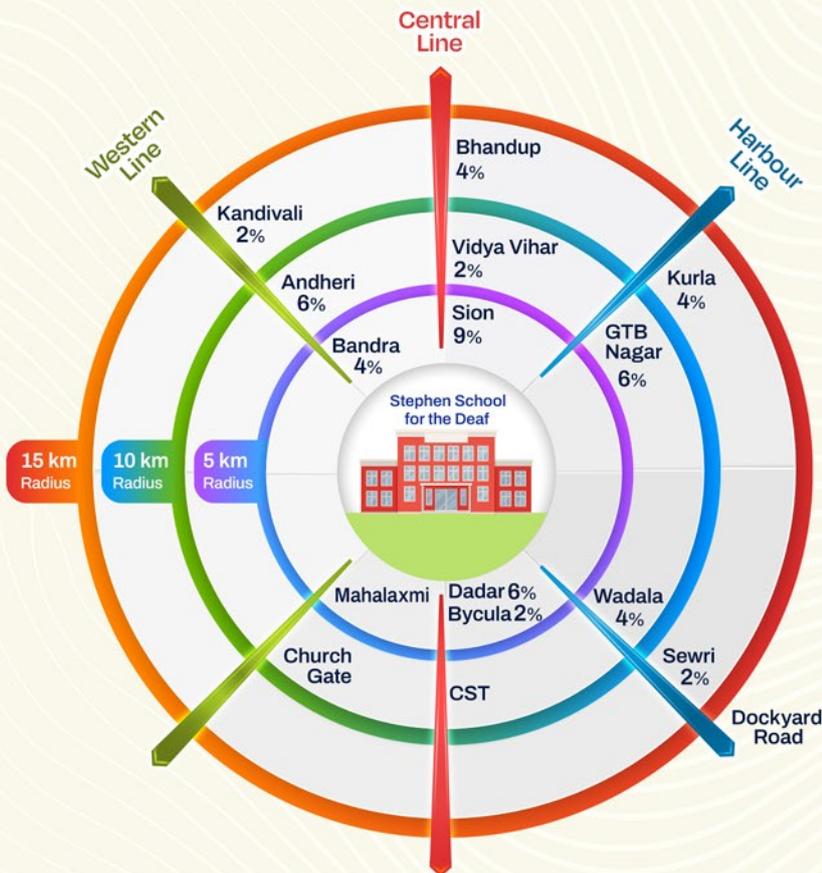
GRISELDA FERNANDES
Therapist

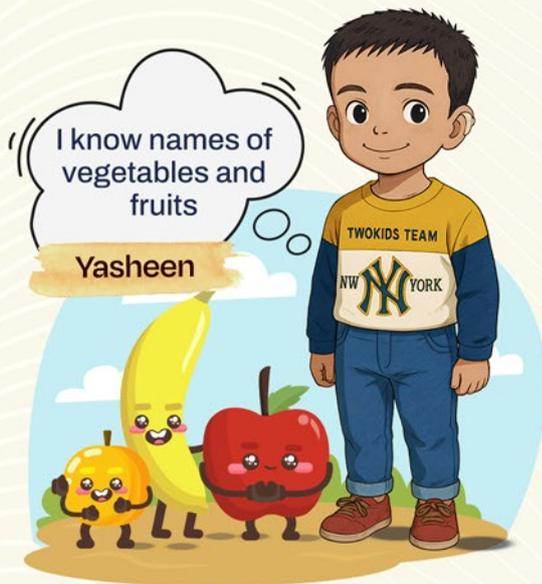
“ Every sound is a step, every word a leap. Guiding children on their journey to listening and speaking ”.



HEMISHA MEHTA
Therapist

Distance Travelled by Children for Therapy





Our nursery is a fun and welcoming space where children enjoy learning through play and exploration. Here, young minds are gently introduced to essential skills such as pre-writing, pre-reading, and pre-math, laying the foundation for future learning.

Alongside academic readiness, we place a strong emphasis on developing social skills, helping children build confidence, cooperate with others, and form friendships.



We follow the Aural-Oral approach, which focuses on helping children with hearing loss develop listening and spoken language skills through the use of hearing technology. By encouraging listening and speaking as primary modes of communication, we support each child's ability to engage meaningfully with their peers.

The goal is to integrate children with hearing loss into mainstream environments where spoken language is the norm, ensuring they grow and thrive alongside their hearing peers.



"Nurturing young minds with care, patience, and purpose - because every gesture, every sound, and every smile brings our little ones one step closer to a world full of possibilities."

TRUSHAL DAREWAR
Nursery teacher

Har Ghar Hero



We organised an event “**Har Ghar Hero**” emphasizing the **critical role fathers** play in their child’s life. As part of the event, fathers participated in hands on group activities where they learned effective techniques for language development, playful methods to create a supportive home environment.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell event showcased the children’s progress as they **spoke about topics** like favourite vegetables, shiny objects, and beloved foods, reflecting their remarkable journey in the world of sound.



FrienNgo 3.0

We celebrated the spirit of friendship, collaboration, and community through the annual event FrienNGO 3.0. The event brought together 15 NGOs, creating a vibrant space for learning and networking, where participants shared experiences, exchanged ideas, and built meaningful connections to support and strengthen their collective impact. Mr. Roshan D’souza CEO Surge Impact Foundation, delivered an engaging presentation on the crucial topic of proposal writing for NGOs.

Visit to Children’s Museum



An **educational visit** organized to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), enabled children to engage in enriching activities, expand their vocabulary, and explore vibrant museum displays.

Masti Mall Event



Art activity



Playzone



Salon



Restaurant

A unique experiential event recreated a mall within the premises. The event gave the children and parents the opportunity to experience a day in a mall. The setup featured a salon, stationery shop, restaurant, movie theatre, jewellery shop, play zone, and garment exhibition, providing an engaging and interactive learning environment for children with hearing impairments. The objective was to familiarize them with essential vocabulary related to everyday transactions while encouraging social interaction and confidence-building.



Clothes Exhibition



Movie Time



Jewellery making

Audiological Intervention

09

Our well equipped Audio logical lab is equipped with advanced diagnostic tools. We conduct precise hearing assessments that form the foundation for tailored intervention plans. From BERA and PTA tests to cochlear implant mapping and hearing aid trials, every evaluation brings us a step closer to empowering children with the gift of sound.

OAE Test



Evaluating inner ear function by measuring sound responses from the cochlea.

BERA Test



Evaluating child's hearing status as well as functioning of the outer, middle and inner ear.

Otoscopic examination



Examining the child's ear to check the status of the outer ear.

Pure Tone Audiometry



Measuring hearing sensitivity across different frequencies to determine hearing thresholds.

Immittance Audiometry



Measuring middle ear pressure and function to diagnose ear conditions.

Ear Molds



Creating a custom mold of the ear for a precise hearing aid fit.

Hearing Aid Trial



Assessing hearing aid suitability and effectiveness for individual needs.

CI Mapping



Adjusting and programming the cochlear implant for optimal hearing performance.

“There is nothing greater than seeing a child listening to first sounds.”



SLESHA JAIN
Senior Audiologist

Beyond Therapy

10



Hearing Aid Care and Maintenance Session

Informative sessions on the care and maintenance of hearing aids are conducted for parents, caregivers, and professionals involved in the care of children. Experts provide hands-on demonstrations, showing participants how to troubleshoot common issues that may arise with hearing aids.



Group Therapy

Group therapy session focusing on enhancing expression, reception, social interaction, and parent communication. Parents as partners, learn techniques to support their child's progress at home, creating a collaborative and nurturing environment.



UDID Camp

A UDID Camp was organized for assisting children and adults with disabilities. This initiative was designed to streamline the process of obtaining a UDID, an essential identification for individuals with disabilities, which grants them access to various benefits, rights, and government services across India.



Cochlear Implant Care & Maintenance session

Session on Care and maintenance of cochlear implants for parents and caregivers of children with hearing impairments, emphasize the importance of care and maintenance tips, especially during the monsoon season, to ensure the proper functioning of the implants.



Session on Child Protection

An Informative and engaging session on Child Protection Policy (CPP) conducted by Prerana Foundation aimed at equipping parents and caregivers of children with hearing impairments with essential safety knowledge. Special emphasis was placed on communication techniques to ensure that safety instructions are clearly understood, empowering both parents and children to respond effectively in various situations.



Session on Self Identity

A session for mothers was held to address burnout and self-identity. The session was highly interactive, with one-on-one conversations, plenty of writing, and moments of deep self-awareness. Parents truly enjoyed the experience, finding it both insightful and meaningful.



PRIYA XAVIER
Communications

"Beyond therapy, parents need a strong support system. Each such session is more than just learning; it's a space where they find understanding, strength, and a sense of belonging."



Khadija was identified with a possible hearing loss, at just 9 months old making her the youngest at our center. Following cochlear implant surgery, and regular therapy, her progress has been remarkable! Today, she delights in reciting rhymes, eagerly takes on cognitive challenges, and confidently expresses her needs.

Rutvi Implanted at the age of 2, Rutvi's journey is a testament to the power of early intervention and a mother's unwavering determination. Through relentless effort and dedication, her mother ensured Rutvi received the support she needed—paving the way for her to thrive in a mainstream school today.



Jiyanshi was born with Down syndrome and multiple challenges. She received her cochlear implant at the age of 4. Today, she is a happier, more confident child who responds to her name with joy. Her journey is a beautiful reminder that with the right support, every child can thrive.



Adnan

Adnan's story began with hardship as he had health issues right from the moment he was born. Born prematurely, he spent the beginning of his life in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). At the age of 1 year and 9 months, his world was further complicated by the fact that he was diagnosed with profound bilateral hearing loss. Adnan's profound bilateral hearing loss was catastrophic news for his parents as their dreams and hopes for their beloved son were now shattered.

During an interview with the father, he stated "That was one of our lowest moments in life, but I always managed to stay hopeful with a smile." Even though they came from a lower-middle class family, they put all their efforts into making sure Adnan had the best medical care possible. One of these efforts led them to Montfort Care Early Intervention Center. We provided parental counseling that aimed at providing motivation and emotional support.

We also fitted him with hearing aids. Initially, when Adnan had just begun his journey, Adnan had just begun using hearing aids and was preparing for cochlear implant surgery. Unfortunately, the surgery was delayed by six months because Adnan developed Tuberculosis. "I had never felt so helpless, like there was no way forward," shared Adnan's mother.



Adnan did take a while to get back to his healthy self. But finally, the day when Adnan was prepared for the surgery arrived. The surgical team helped Adnan to begin his new life.

He now has a cochlear implant in one ear and a hearing aid on the other. He is a happy child who spreads cheer all around him. With consistent therapy, he is now able to communicate through short sentences!



VIDYUT THAKORE
Program Coordinator

“Due to increased efforts towards early detection and rehabilitation, we are witnessing transformation. Every effort brings a child closer to the joy of listening and the power of speaking.”

At Montfort Care, dedicated efforts have been made towards research and publication to reduce the gap of resources available for professional and parents working with hearing impaired children. The team has actively engaged in documenting best practices, developing digital platforms contributing to knowledge sharing through papers and presentations. These initiatives reflect our commitment to continuous learning and evidence-based practices in early intervention.

AVT Care Mobile App

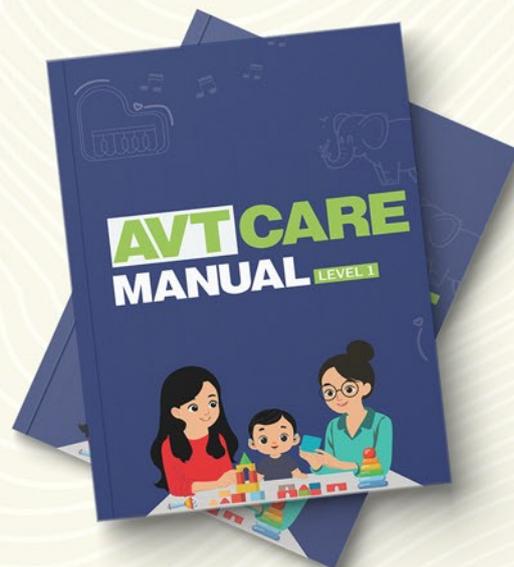
AVT Care, a user-friendly mobile app designed to support parents and professionals in providing Auditory-Verbal Therapy (AVT) to children with profound hearing loss.



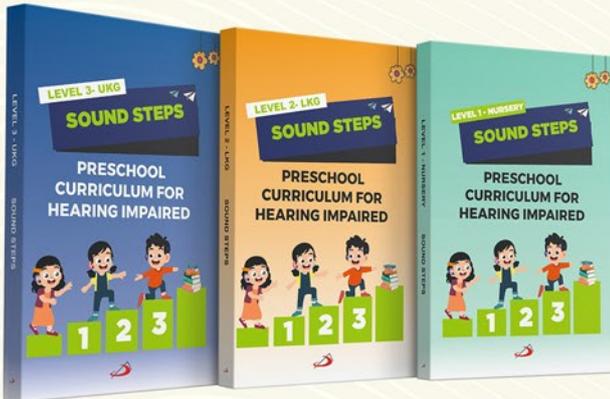
- Free App - AVT Care
- Pre-recorded demo sessions
- Teaching Resources
- Assessments
- Available on Play store

AVT Care Manual

The manual is specifically designed for **professionals** in the fields of Audiology and Speech Therapy. It serves as a comprehensive reference guide to enhance their skills and knowledge. Additionally, **parents seeking to support their children's speech development** can also benefit from this manual. It has assessments, activities, additional activities should be and some parental guidance tips.

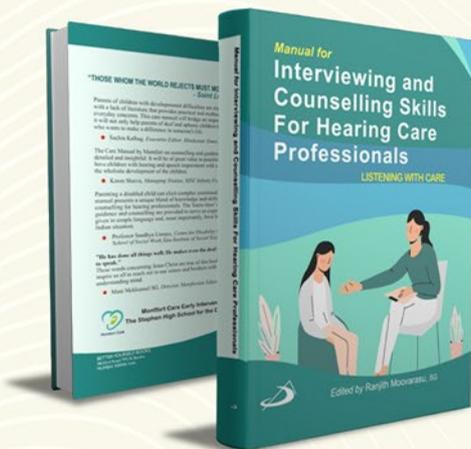


Curriculum Manual



A specialized curriculum that is adapted to the specific needs of 3 levels of **preschool children (4-7 years)** with hearing impairments. Three different manuals address and promote language development, socialization, and academic skills which is accessible to all children, regardless of their level of hearing impairment. Based on **National Education Policy 2020 and National Curriculum Framework 2023**.

Counseling Manual



This book provides essential counseling skills and practical strategies for professionals who are supporting children with hearing and speech impairments and their families. It focuses on holistic well-being, **effective communication techniques, and patient-centered rehabilitation approaches**.



RANJITH MOOVARASU SG
DIRECTOR

“

At Montfort Care Early Intervention Centre, we believe knowledge grows when it is shared. Each year, we contribute meaningfully to the field of hearing impairment through research articles, manuals, and publications. This ongoing practice not only equips the community with valuable resources but also keeps our team inspired, informed, and committed to advancing inclusive care and lifelong learning.

”

Donors and Stakeholders

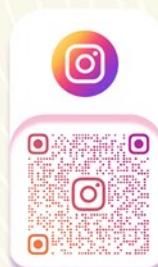
- Fire Brigade HO
- The Lady of Lourdes
- Apnalaya
- Corp Organisation
- Mumbai Smiles Foundation
- Akanksha Foundation
- Bright Futures
- SNDT College of Art
- Tara Bai Modak Shikshan Kendra
- VN Desai Hospital
- Shastri Nagar Govt. Hospital
- ENT Hospital
- Bhabha Hospital Kurla
- Bhabha Hospital Bandra
- SRCC Hospital
- ICDS
- KDA Hospital - Andheri
- Nirmala Niketan

- Koshish Foundation
- Jeevan Dhara Foundation
- Pratham Organisation
- Shield Foundation
- Prayas Foundation
- Brahmakumari Global Hospital
- Vision Rescue Foundation
- Mumbai Mobile Creches
- Perna Organisation
- Jeevan Ankur Trust
- Kalyan Vigyan Trust
- Vimla Vikas Kendra
- Gharkul Organisation
- Door Step School
- Cochlear India
- Sai Ashish Centre- Ulhas Nagar
- Jupiter Hospital

Our Donors



14 Our Presence



THE STEPHEN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



The Stephen High School for the Deaf was started back in 1957 by two visionary ENT doctors who wanted to make a real difference for children with hearing loss. What began as a small effort has grown into a well-loved and trusted school that now supports 72 children and their families each year. With 12 specially designed classrooms, a computer lab, science lab, and an audio-visual room, the school is fully equipped to meet the needs of its students.



Stephen School is all about creating a warm, inclusive space where children with hearing impairments can learn, grow, and succeed. Every classroom and facility has been thoughtfully planned to give students the best possible learning experience.

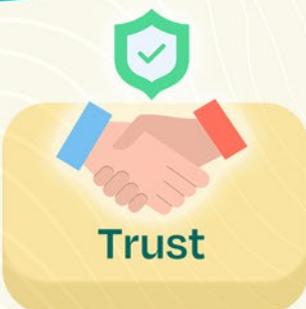
The 2024–25 school year was filled with exciting and meaningful progress. Four students worked hard to prepare for their SSC board exams, while the rest of the school got involved in a variety of literary, art, cultural, and sports competitions. Students from preschool to high school gave it their all—and even brought home wins from interschool events !

One big step this year was the launch of foundational-level activities in preschool, based on a curriculum specially designed by the school team. Parents were also actively involved through regular workshops, helping them support their children better. Teachers had their own learning journeys too, attending seminars and visiting other centres to pick up new ideas.

To make learning even more fun and interactive, the school added smart boards in classrooms - making lessons more engaging and effective for everyone.

With a perfect mix of care, creativity, and commitment, Stephen School continues to be a place where children with hearing loss are empowered to reach their full potential.

16 Our Values





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THE STEPHEN HIGH SCHOOL

FOR THE DEAF AND APHASIC



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