



YEAR BOOK



2023-24



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Honorary Director's note

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up the school year June 2023 - April 2024, I find myself reflecting with gratitude and pride on the remarkable progress we have made. Celebrating six years of dedication to the Autism community, CADRRE stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Our journey has been one of hope, resilience, and unwavering dedication to creating a better world for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Every moment, every effort at CADRRE is woven with the thread of our collective commitment to empower those on the autism spectrum. Over the years, CADRRE has continued to make a profound impact through a variety of programs.

Our free autism clinic has been instrumental in providing timely support to hundreds of young children and their families

Our day-long intervention services cater to children aged 3-18, ensuring they receive the necessary educational and therapeutic support.

Our parent-mediated intervention program trains parents to be their child's main therapist, empowering them in caring for their autistic child.


Our intervention services for school-going children are tailored to support those with communication challenges in a regular school environment.

Our focus on young adults on the spectrum has been equally significant, as we work to open doors to employment opportunities and foster independent living skills, helping them navigate the world with confidence and dignity.

Our skills building program has become a vital resource, equipping young adults on the spectrum with various skills that translate into self-employment opportunities.



“Our journey has been one of hope, resilience and unwavering dedication to creating a better world for individuals on the autism spectrum”



Our parent get-togethers at the Artism Studio have become a cherished space and sanctuary for parents, to connect, share, and unwind. We understand the critical importance of caregiver well-being and strive to offer opportunities for parents to recharge, knowing that their health directly impacts their children's well-being.

Our "Functional Fridays" have become a beloved tradition, where children experience simulated environments like movie theatres, hair salons, hospitals, and restaurants. These outings help them navigate social settings they might find stressful, preparing them for a world that too often lacks inclusive spaces and practices.

We instituted the CADRRE Lifetime Contribution Award to Autism this year and we take immense pride in announcing Dr. Prathibha Karanth as the recipient of the award for 2024.

Two of our other new initiatives of the year were the inaugural editions of the CADRRE Art Week and CADRRE International Filmlet Festival on Autism (CIFFA), both a celebration of voices, stories, and perspectives that too often go unheard.

Our ongoing partnership with Tata Power, which began on April 2, 2022, has been a cornerstone of our advocacy efforts. Over the past two years, we spearheaded numerous initiatives, including webinars, telephonic support for parents, a web portal, and training sessions for Anganwadi and healthcare workers to enhance early autism identification.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the incredible support of our donors. We are deeply grateful to SunTec, UST, Vishal Nevatia, Al Karim Somji, KIMSHealth, and all our generous contributors. Their unwavering support is the lifeblood of our organization, enabling us to continue our vital work.

Even as we celebrate our successes, we recognize that much remains to be done. We dream of establishing an assisted living centre, a neurodiversity clinic, and an incubation center for autistic entrepreneurs who complete our skills training program. We invite you to join us on this journey, to support us as we strive to make even more profound and positive changes in the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

With heartfelt gratitude,
G. Vijaya Raghavan, Hon. Director, CADRRE

Our School - *Nurturing Minds and Hearts*

At CADRRE, school isn't just a place of learning - it's a second home. We understand that parents seek an environment where their children on the spectrum can thrive safely and joyfully. Here, every decision we make is centered on the well-being and growth of our students.

We believe in the harmonious blend of nature and nurture to shape each child's personality, independent thinking, and outlook on life. This philosophy is woven into the very fabric of our campuses and daily activities. Our students are encouraged to explore, discover, and learn in an environment designed just for them.

Nestled in the heart of the city, our three centres offer a perfect blend of vintage charm and contemporary aesthetics. Surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds, our facilities include libraries, play areas, dining spaces, sensory rooms, walkways, conference rooms, ADL (Activities of Daily Living) rooms, and thoughtfully designed classrooms tailored to the unique needs of our students. Every corner of our centres is meticulously crafted to suit the age group it serves and its specific purpose.



PMG Centre
for children 3-6 years

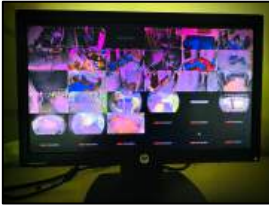


Sasthamangalam Centre
for children 7-18 years



The Artism Studio
for young adults above 18

One of our centres features a kitchen garden where students are supported in growing vegetables and fruits. This not only adds to the charm of the centre but also helps students socialize and contributes positively to their mental health.



To keep parents connected and informed, all rooms used by the children are under camera surveillance, accessible to parents through a dedicated app.

We use visual aids like colour and patterns in common areas to help children navigate their surroundings. These are implemented subtly to avoid visual over-stimulation. Signage plays a crucial role in wayfinding and navigation for individuals on the spectrum who might find written words challenging. Understanding that many autistic individuals are visual learners, we complement written language with pictorial representations, ensuring clear and effective communication throughout our centres. In addition to aiding navigation, this approach fosters skill development, boosts self-esteem, and promotes inclusion. By consistently viewing and understanding pictorial signs accompanied by written words, students gradually begin to recognize and comprehend these written words through association. For this reason, every room is named and marked with a picture card.



A standout feature of our school is the water play area, a favourite among both children and teachers, adding a unique and joyful element to our environment.

CADRRE's library-cum-theatre is a beloved haven for our children, offering a rich variety of books, interactive games, and toys. It's also a delightful spot where they can enjoy watching movies.



The Blue Room is a serene retreat for our students, providing a safe space where they can calm themselves, gather their thoughts, or even take a short nap.



An aqua sensory path offers water-based tactile and auditory stimuli, enhancing sensory exploration, motor skills, and relaxation for children.



A sensory wall for autistic children provides tactile, visual, and auditory stimuli, promoting engagement, focus, and calming sensory experiences.



A school garden growing vegetables and fruits teaches students about agriculture, healthy eating, sustainability, and fosters hands-on learning experiences in nature.



A school sandpit and play area provide children with opportunities for creative play, social interaction, motor skills development, and outdoor fun.

Holistic Development: *The CADRRE Model*

As we reflect on the vibrant tapestry of experiences within CADRRE's autism school, we celebrate a pioneering educational approach rooted in an interdisciplinary model that fosters the holistic development of each student, blending academics with essential life skills and therapeutic support.

At the heart of our ethos lies the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), meticulously crafted to honour the unique learning styles and strengths of every child. Guided by a dedicated team of therapists and parents, this personalized roadmap charts a course towards growth and achievement, with goals evolving in tandem with each student's progress.

Within our dynamic classrooms, the spirit of community thrives through group sessions designed to nurture social interactions, communication abilities, and a shared love for learning. Through immersive experiences such as field trips, role-playing, and hands-on activities, our students embark on a journey of exploration and self-discovery.

For our younger learners, CADRRE serves as a springboard for successful integration into mainstream educational environments, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to thrive. Meanwhile, those who choose to continue their educational journey with us delve deeper into functional academics and a rich tapestry of vocational skills, from culinary arts to candle making and screen printing.

As we turn the pages of our school yearbook, we celebrate not only the achievements of our students but also the collective spirit of resilience, inclusion, and empowerment that defines the CADRRE community. Each chapter tells a story of possibility and growth, inspiring us to continue pioneering pathways towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Empowering voices: *Speech Therapy*

At the heart of speech therapy lies a profound dedication to nurturing speech, language, and communication skills. Speech therapists focus on helping children overcome challenges with how they feel and move their mouths, as well as how they understand and use language.

Approximately one in three people with autism have difficulty producing speech sounds, making their language hard to understand. For nonverbal individuals or those struggling with speech, therapists introduce alternatives like sign language, PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), or speech-generating devices. Our primary goal is to enhance students' ability to form relationships and function in daily life.



Nurturing minds: *Social Skills Training*



Our psychologists are crucial in fostering children's socio-emotional, cognitive, and perceptual skills. They help manage relationships at home and school, utilizing play, art, and music. Through these diverse approaches, they establish a trusting and nurturing bond with each child, promoting overall development and well-being.



Recognizing each child's uniqueness, we design interventions based on specific needs and goals. These personalized strategies teach new skills and promote positive behavioral changes. Our main focus is to support and guide each child, helping them grow and thrive in daily life.

Building capabilities: *Occupational Therapy*

Our occupational therapists make learning fun through engaging activities like using a sensory wall, playing in the specially designed Blue Room, water play, obstacle courses, and sensory circuits. These activities help develop our students' cognitive, physical, social, and motor skills.

Each activity is tailored to meet students' unique physical, social, emotional, sensory, and cognitive needs, often including a sensory diet and individual or group sessions for learning and self-regulation.

Therapists also work on essential skills such as toileting, eating, grooming, using the bathroom, and developing gross and fine motor skills like writing, coloring.



Innovative learning: *Information and Communication Technology*



In Information and Communication Technology, children learn to use laptops or desktops through activities like identifying keyboard alphabets, enhancing hand-eye coordination, and playing academic-related online games. Junior students use the adaptive Clevy keyboard with larger keys and color coding. Older students transition to conventional keyboards, typing grocery lists, and improving communication skills as part of their ADL curriculum.

Our ICT program supports children on the autism spectrum by using assistive technologies tailored to their unique needs, such as speech-to-text software for better verbal communication and visual aids for enhancing independence. Interactive ICT sessions help students develop essential digital literacy skills, enabling them to thrive in various aspects of their lives.



Notes of Joy: *Music Therapy*



Music classes are a favorite among our students, with music therapy greatly enhancing moods and spirits. This is particularly beneficial for individuals on the autism spectrum, who often have exceptional musical abilities. A serene environment with familiar songs and repetitive rhythms creates an ideal, emotionally and cognitively engaging experience.

We encourage children who respond positively to music to explore various styles and instruments. Music therapy leverages children's inherent interest in music, helping them communicate, connect socially, and express themselves. We use Bangalore-based Svarakshema's music therapy modules, tailoring sessions to each child's age and unique talents.

Music therapy is available at all our centers for every age group, with sessions structured into six parts:

1. **Om Chanting:** Improves attention
2. **Swara with Hand Movements:** Balances bilateral alignments
3. **Small Songs with Beat-Based Movements:** Enhances sitting tolerance and auditory-to-motor coordination
4. **Clapping with Konnakol:** Improves speech clarity and concentration
5. **Krida Section:** Develops social behavior and communication skills
6. **Listening:** Achieves calmness

Music therapy significantly enhances the quality of life for autistic children. We observe improvements in sitting tolerance, eye contact, calmness, and attention. Individual sessions improve singing skills, pronunciation, and speech clarity. Our goal is to reduce aggression and hyperactivity, using tailored activities to meet each child's needs.



Art: *Unleashing Creativity*

Engaging in art offers children with special needs a therapeutic outlet for unique self-expression. Through various artistic activities, they better understand their environment and identity. They have access to a variety of materials such as crayons, paints, markers, stamps, and pencils to choose from.

Some children delight in the tactile experience of splattering and dripping paint, while others enjoy the precision of crayons and colored pencils. Tasks like cutting with scissors, gluing, and painting enhance their fine motor skills. Exploring different materials, textures, and techniques promotes personal growth and self-expression. Art unlocks the creative potential within our children, fostering the self-confidence they need and deserve.



The CADRRE Framework for *Families and Caregivers*

Parents, caregivers, and others who regularly interact with children are vital to the CADRRE approach. To support families of individuals on the spectrum, we offer tailored counseling sessions and specific training modules for parents and grandparents. Each module, lasting one to two hours, equips primary caregivers with essential knowledge and tools.

Parents play a crucial role in creating an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for their child. Weekly mentor meetings allow our team to discuss the child's progress, milestones, and areas needing further attention with the parents. Consistent routines are essential for children on the autism spectrum, so every aspect of learning requires follow-up at home. Parents are involved at every stage, whether introducing a new skill or exploring new strengths for the child.

Learning methods are adjusted based on the child's response and feedback from parents or caregivers. We support the effective implementation of strategies used at school to be carried out at home as well. At CADRRE, we understand that parents are experts in their child's needs, strengths, and interests. This knowledge helps us create an effective IEP.

We also recognize that while therapists and intervention strategies may change over time, parents remain the constant in a special needs child's life. Their insights are invaluable in developing an effective IEP. CADRRE ensures that parents feel included and supported in the IEP process and that the team preparing the IEP has a comprehensive understanding of the child.



Making learning enjoyable

Making learning enjoyable for our children involves incorporating sensory-friendly activities, clear visual aids, and interactive lessons tailored to their interests and needs. Utilizing technology, such as tablets and educational software, helps maintain their focus. Teachers create a structured yet flexible environment, allowing for personalized learning paces. Positive reinforcement and celebrating small achievements are key to fostering a joyful and encouraging educational experience.



Functional Fridays

As part of our curriculum, we incorporate numerous enjoyable events aligned with each class's lesson plan. These activities not only expand the students' imagination but also make the learning experience more vibrant and engaging. They provide students with the opportunity to live and experience real-life scenarios, enhancing their ability to think quickly and improving their social interaction skills. Additionally, children are introduced to new situations and circumstances, teaching them how to navigate and handle these unfamiliar experiences.



Exploring with CADRRE: *Beyond Classroom Boundaries*

Excursions are delightful experiences that extend beyond the confined walls of a classroom, offering memories that last far longer than any traditional classroom activity. These outings provide children with the opportunity to explore, discover, learn, and connect the concepts they study in the classroom to real-life scenarios and situations. For children on the spectrum, these experiences are particularly valuable. They help alleviate various inhibitions, such as the anxiety of exploring new places, navigating through crowds, and managing the overwhelming sensory input encountered on the road or in a theatre. By participating in these trips, children learn to handle themselves in such environments, which significantly boosts their confidence. Furthermore, these excursions equip them with essential skills to deal with the unexpected or unforeseen, a common challenge faced by those on the spectrum.





Exploring *Lulu Funtura*

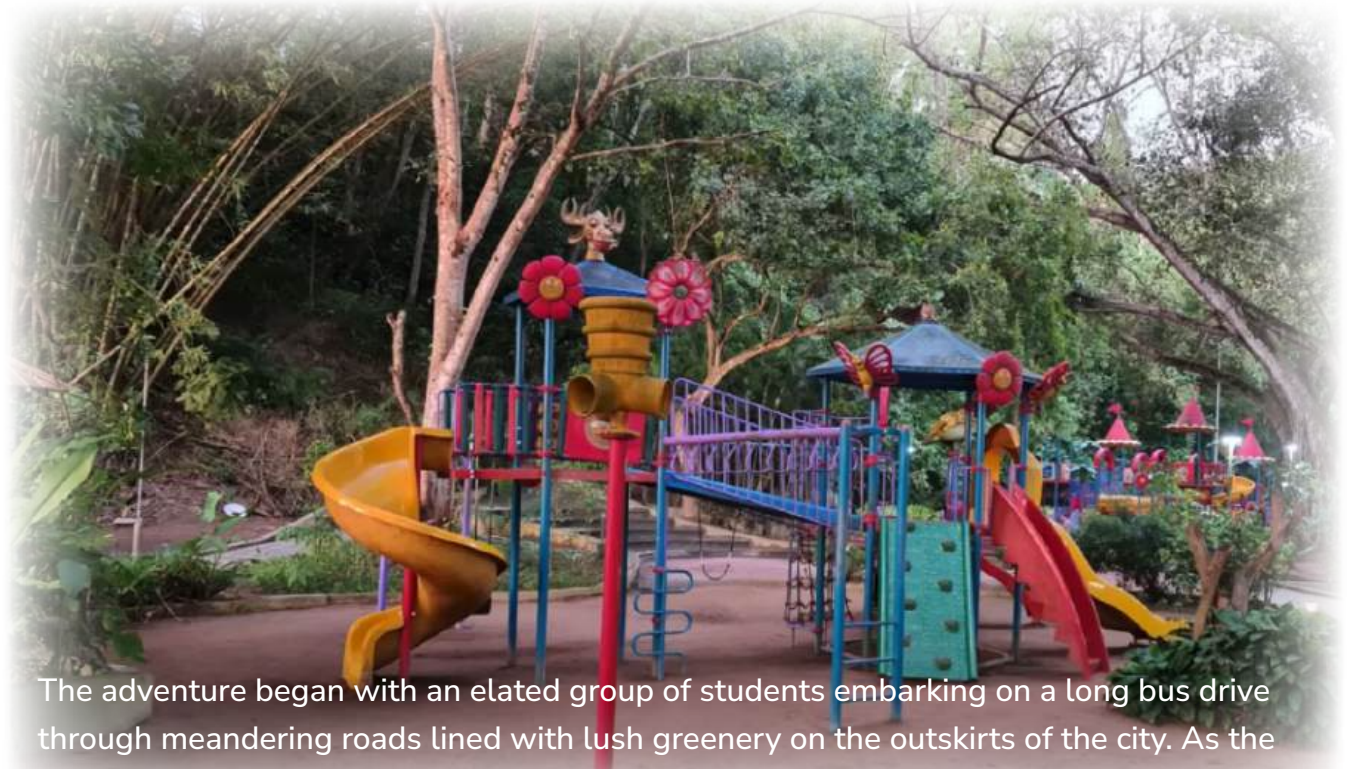
Reflecting on our school days, it's often the joyful moments with friends and memorable school trips that stand out, rather than classroom lessons. With this in mind, we aimed to create lasting memories for our students by organizing a delightful day at Funtura in Lulu Mall Trivandrum, August 2023

Learning extends far beyond the classroom walls, encompassing communication, responsiveness, observation, and understanding of the world around us. During their visit, our students experienced numerous rides, faced their fears, and stepped out of their comfort zones. They found joy not only in their own adventures but also in watching their friends try different rides.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire team at Funtura Trivandrum for making this day unforgettable for our students and ensuring they had an amazing time. Take a look at the beautiful moments we captured from this extraordinary day.

Exploring *Akkulam Park*



The adventure began with an elated group of students embarking on a long bus drive through meandering roads lined with lush greenery on the outskirts of the city. As the bus wound its way to the park, our students enjoyed the fresh morning breeze, watching the city come alive with a new day.

Upon arrival at Akkulam Tourist Village, the scorching heat did nothing to dampen the spirits of our enthusiastic students. They delighted in the sprawling park, feeling the crunch of dried leaves beneath their feet and breathing in the fresh fragrance of moist soil. The students took turns on various fun rides and went round and round in a delightful trackless train, their laughter echoing through the park. They listened to the chirping of birds and the soothing sounds of nature, immersing themselves in the tranquil beauty around them.

One of the highlights of the day was the vibrant musical fountain show, a spectacle of color and rhythm that captivated everyone. As the day grew warmer, our students cooled off with some pool time, splashing around and playing in the refreshing water. They ate snacks together under the shade, sharing food and stories, and finding joy in the small wins and activities throughout the day.



The visit to Akkulam Tourist Village was a magical experience, filled with fun, learning, and camaraderie. The entire excursion, from the scenic bus ride to the various adventures at the park, left our students with a treasure trove of cherished memories.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the team at Akkulam Tourist Village for making this experience so memorable. Their efforts ensured our students had an amazing time, filled with laughter, exploration, and lasting memories.

Autism Awareness Session for *Allianz Services*

CADRRE hosted an Autism Awareness session at the Allianz Services Technopark Trivandrum campus on June 27, 2023. The session, titled "Understanding Autism," delved into the advantages of having autistic individuals in the workplace, provided insights on what to anticipate when interacting with someone on the autism spectrum, highlighted the advantages of hiring neurodiverse talent, discussed methods for creating tailored accommodations and support strategies, explored effective approaches and potential challenges when working with autistic individuals, and emphasized their areas of expertise and potential contributions. With over 50 employees in attendance, the session proved to be enriching, featuring an engaging Q&A segment where attendees actively participated.



Empowering Parents: *Navigating Sex Education for Children on the Autism Spectrum*



We are pleased to share the positive outcomes of our recent sex education session designed for parents of children on the autism spectrum. Held in late March, this session aimed to provide parents with the knowledge and tools to address sensitive topics related to sexuality with their children.

Led by Parvathy C from the Employability Training Program for young adults on the spectrum, the session covered various aspects of sex education tailored to the unique needs of children with autism. It focused on guiding parents in initiating conversations in a way that is accessible and understandable for their children.

Parents learned strategies to introduce concepts such as private and public spaces, safe and unsafe touch, and boundaries, using visual aids and interactive discussions. The session also emphasized normalizing sexuality for individuals with autism and promoting appropriate sexual behavior. Our goal is to empower parents to foster healthy attitudes towards sexuality, promoting inclusivity and support within the autism community.

The session received overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents, who felt supported and empowered to address sex education with their children on the autism spectrum. Many expressed deep gratitude for the guidance provided.

As we continue our mission to provide comprehensive and inclusive education for children with autism, sessions like these underscore our commitment to equipping parents with the resources they need to navigate every aspect of their child's development.

We extend our sincere thanks to all the parents who participated in the session.



Shaping the Dialogue:

CADRRE's Director's Presentation at OTICON 2024

G. Vijaya Raghavan, the Honorary Director of CADRRE, delivered a keynote address at OTICON 2024, the 61st Annual National Conference of the All-India Occupational Therapists' Association (AIOTA). This event holds significant importance for occupational therapists, gathering professionals from across India and beyond to exchange knowledge, insights, and experiences on the forefront of Occupational Therapy. Hosted by the Kerala Branch of AIOTA, the conference serves as a platform for fostering collaboration and discussing the latest advancements, innovations, and strategies in the field. During his presentation, Mr. Raghavan emphasized the necessity to delineate the scope and specialties within Occupational Therapy in India. He highlighted challenges such as the shortage of occupational therapists, akin to past struggles faced by Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs), and stressed the importance of research, partnerships, certification programs, as well as the development of Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) and Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) programs.



Pay Attention Capability Building Project

In January 2024, CADRRE implemented the project Capability building for NGO personnel, a collaboration between Tata Power Community Development Trust and CADRRE, funded by Tata Power's Pay Attention program.

It is a 3-day experiential learning programme aimed at providing NGO personnel working with children with special needs, a hands-on experience in intervention techniques for children with Autism.

The fact that the training was experiential as opposed to theoretical classroom sessions, and being able to see for themselves the impact that a well-planned and executed interdisciplinary intervention can make on the children, was appreciated by the participants. Many participants also mentioned that the training manual given to them was a novelty.

The participants observing the interdisciplinary team at CADRRE



Early Intervention Program -
3 to 6 years



Autism School Program -
7 to 10 years



Autism School Program -
10 to 18 years



Skills Building and Employability Program for young adults with Autism



We hope that the 38 personnel from across India - from Mumbai, Chennai, Jamshedpur, Kolkota, and from the Buds schools run by the Kudumbashree mission in Kerala, who participated in the program over 3 months have a multiplier effect when they share and implement their learnings back at their schools and centres, as envisioned in the project. We will strive for the future trainings to restart in the new academic year in June 2024 to be similarly impactful.

India Inclusion Summit 2023

Three members from CADRRE attended the 11th edition of the India inclusion summit. The summit brought together thought leaders, innovators, and speakers working in the field of disability along with notable actors like Dr. Mohan Agashe and Adil Hussain.



The hosts of the event, 12-year-old Keya Hatkar with a rare genetic disorder of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (left) and 11-year-old Prathamesh Sinha, who is visually impaired (right), infused infectious energy into the event.

One standout session featured Elizabeth M. Bonker and her mother, Virginia G. Breen, authors of "I Am in Here," sharing their journey with autism and the unique methods non-verbal individuals on the spectrum employ to communicate.



The summit also showcased an art exhibition where participants experienced paintings through touch while blindfolded, along with inclusive startup ventures presented by India Inclusion Fellows and captivating artistic performances, all contributing to the advancement of inclusion.

CADRRE Art Week 2023

CADRRE Art Week, held from November 29th to December 2nd, 2023, was a vibrant celebration of creativity and talent. Countless hours of preparation culminated in a spectacular event, showcasing the diverse artistic expressions of every CADRRE student. Each child, having received guidance in various painting techniques, was given a blank canvas to unleash their creativity. The resulting artworks were nothing short of astonishing, reflecting the unique perspectives and artistic brilliance of our students. The week was filled with enthusiasm and excitement, highlighting the incredible talents within our community and celebrating the artistic contributions of individuals on the spectrum.



Art Week began with an inspiring live painting session by **Nincy Mariam Mondly**, a psychologist and paraplegic artist.



The live painting session was followed by the formal inauguration by **Dr. Divya S Iyer, IAS.**



The exhibition showcased over 100 paintings created by our 50 talented students, ranging in age from 3 to 28 years old. Open to the public, the event received an overwhelming response, with 84 paintings sold. A portion of the proceeds was given to the artists, fostering an appreciation for financial independence and celebrating their remarkable achievements.

The Art Week also featured a delightful Music & Movement Therapy Workshop for CADRRE parents, conducted by Aswathy P, Music Therapist, and Nayana Chandran, Movement Therapist. Parents enjoyed an engaging experience as they danced to lively beats, clapped along to various rhythms to boost concentration and focus, and played tambourines, filling the room with joyous music and movement. The workshop not only provided fun and relaxation but also equipped parents with practical techniques to incorporate into playtime, making it both enjoyable and effective for their children.



Additionally, an enriching Art Workshop was conducted by Nandita N K, Art Consultant at CADRRE. Parents were introduced to a variety of techniques and mediums for creating art, using round, flat, and roller brushes, along with foam stamps in diverse shapes, designs, and sizes. They were encouraged to let their imaginations run wild and use these tools creatively to craft unique artworks. This workshop aimed to provide parents with insights into engaging autistic children in art activities and to educate them on the numerous benefits of regularly involving their children in creative pursuits.



Celebrating Excellence: *Dr. Prathiba Karanth* receives *CADRRE Lifetime Contribution to Autism Award, 2024*



We take immense pride in announcing **Dr. Prathibha Karanth** as the recipient of the CADRRE Lifetime Contribution to Autism Award for 2024. This prestigious honour celebrates her lifelong commitment to advancing our understanding and support for individuals on the Autism spectrum. The award was presented by **Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan IAS**, who currently serves as the Additional Chief Secretary in the Local Self-Government Department of the Government of Kerala, during the celebration of Autism Awareness Day on the 2nd of April at Lulu Mall, Trivandrum

As the Founder Director and Managing Trustee of The Communication DEALL Trust, Dr. Prathibha Karanth has exemplified unparalleled commitment and expertise in the field of speech-language pathology for over four decades. Her profound insights and unwavering dedication have significantly impacted the lives of countless individuals on the Autism spectrum in India and beyond. With a pioneering spirit, Dr. Karanth has tirelessly worked to bridge the communication gap for individuals with Autism, particularly those who are non-verbal, transforming their lives and empowering them to thrive in the society. Her seminal contributions through extensive research, numerous publications and authored works have enriched the academic discourse and is of invaluable guidance to caregivers and professionals alike. In honor of her exceptional lifetime achievements and unwavering dedication to the Autism community, Dr. Prathibha Karanth was bestowed with this award



CADRRE International Filmlet Festival on Autism (CIFFA)

Inclusion for people on the autism spectrum is what CADRRE aspires for and works towards, through our educational programs, therapies and advocacy initiatives. Our latest initiative on the advocacy and awareness front is the CADRRE International Filmlet Festival on Autism (CIFFA 2024). CIFFA, a first of its kind film festival, aims to explore the diverse narratives and experiences related to Autism through short films.



Though the word “Autism” is better known today than it ever was in the past, the fact remains that more light needs to be shed on this developmental disability to ensure that more people understand, empathize and do what little they can to empower children as well as adults in the autism spectrum to be as self-sufficient as possible. There is no better way to do this than to tell impactful stories of children and adults who are autistic - stories that are told using one-to-five-minute films.

A panel of four jury members selected the best filmlet on autism, recognizing outstanding storytelling and advocacy.

Jury Members

Bina Paul

Chair of the Jury



A film editor and recipient of two National Film Awards and three Kerala State Film Awards, Bina has edited over 50 documentaries and feature films and has directed 4 documentaries. She has been the artistic director of International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) and the vice chairperson of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy. She also worked as a senior editor at the Centre for Development of Imaging Technology and served as the principal of the L. V. Prasad Film Academy (Thiruvananthapuram campus). She co-founded the Women in Cinema Collective, India's first association that aims to work towards equal opportunity and dignity of women employees in the film industry.

Venu

A cinematographer who has worked in over 80 feature films in Malayalam, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and English, Venugopal has also directed 4 films in Malayalam. He is a recipient of four National Film Awards, including three for Best Cinematography and the Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Director, and four Kerala State Film Awards. He is a founding member of the Indian Society of Cinematographers.



Ferose V R



Ferose is the founder of the India Inclusion Foundation, a Bengaluru-based nonprofit that aims to bring inclusion to the forefront in all sectors across India. He started the industry's leading Autism initiative, "Autism at Work". He has co-authored several bestsellers, most notably *The Invisible Majority: India's Abled Disabled*, *Gifted: Inspiring Stories of People with Disabilities*; and the GRIT series. Ferose has featured in international lists of significance, such as 'India's Top 40 under 40' by Economic Times and Spencer Stuart, and 'Young Global Leader' by the World Economic Forum. He currently heads the SAP Academy of Engineering in San Ramon.

Swarup has over 30 years of experience in building and promoting brands in healthcare, tourism and media sectors in Kerala. As one of the founder-directors, he nurtured Stark Communications Pvt. Ltd. as an agency recognized for its distinctive creative, work ethic and people-centric growth. He played a key role in building the Kerala Tourism brand for two decades, to make it India's No.1 tourism destination. His tourism campaigns have won dozens of national and international awards. Swarup has been a Grand Jury Member of the New York Festivals (Advertising & Radio).

Swarup B R



We are delighted to share with you the success of the inaugural edition of CIFFA held on April 1st and 2nd, 2024. The festival commenced with a special function on April 1st at Goethe Zentrum, where a select audience had the privilege of experiencing a curated selection of films on autism from around the world. It was a beautiful evening filled with hope and togetherness, as attendees shared their feedback on the movies and reflected on the pivotal role these films play in bringing the concerns of autistic individuals to mainstream society.

Additionally, there was also a segment wherein we showcased videos portraying the work of eminent people who work in the field of autism -

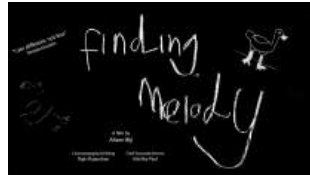


Ms. Merry Barua, Founder Director Action For Autism, National Centre for Autism



Smrithy Rajesh, Psychologist and parent of an autistic entrepreneur.

CIFFA offered a carefully curated selection of films, each providing profound insights into the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum. Despite the challenges inherent in sourcing submissions from filmmakers with a nuanced understanding of both autism and filmmaking, we are proud to note the quality of entries received.



Best Film Award

Second Best Film Award

Special Jury Mention

Most Popular Film

For those who were unable to attend, we are pleased to announce that select films has been made available on CADRRE's YouTube channel, ensuring wider access to this valuable content.

Looking ahead, CIFFA will become an annual event, reaffirming CADRRE's commitment to raising awareness on World Autism Awareness Day and beyond.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to our sponsors, Goethe Zentrum Trivandrum and LuLu Group International, Lulu Mall Trivandrum, whose generous support made this event possible.

Together, let us continue to celebrate diversity, promote inclusion, and foster a society where every individual, regardless of their abilities, is valued and respected.

The school day journey of a student at CADRRE

A school day of *Preschoolers*

At CADRRE, our preschoolers embark on their daily adventure starting at 9 am. The day begins with warm greetings as we escort the children to their classrooms, setting the stage for a day filled with excitement and learning.

Our assembly kicks off at 9:15 am with a serene prayer, followed by a lively "Wake Up" song, delightful rhymes, and engaging activities like marking attendance, calendar updates, and weather discussions. Each morning, students participate in Yoga and Sensory Circuit time, ensuring they are energized and focused for the day ahead.



A 30-minute snack break provides a chance to refuel and socialize before diving into therapy sessions. From 11 am, our preschoolers rotate through 30-minute sessions of academic, occupational, speech, and social skills therapies, tailored to each child's needs.

Lunchtime is a joyous affair from 1 to 2 pm, offering a delicious break in the middle of the day. Regular bathroom breaks are scheduled throughout the day to keep everyone comfortable.

Twice a week, our little ones groove and sway in music and movement therapy, and once a week, they unleash their creativity in art class. To keep things dynamic, we incorporate various activities like park time, sensory room time, and pool time, providing ample opportunities for movement and exploration.



Fridays are extra special, as students engage in functional activities based on fun themes like shopping, cooking, gardening, and daily living skills. These hands-on experiences are designed to be both educational and enjoyable.



The school day concludes with the National Anthem at 3 pm, marking the end of another fulfilling day at CADRRE.

A school day of Juniors

Each day in the Juniors program at CADRRE begins with quality time spent bonding with friends in the classroom. The children gather as a group, engaging with each other before the assembly session kicks off.



Our morning assembly is a lively affair, starting with a "Wake Up" song. Those who can, perform independently, while others join in with minimal support. Following this, the children participate in a calming yoga session and a sensory circuit to help regulate their senses before heading to class.

In the classroom, facilitators mark the attendance, and children actively participate in noting the date, day, and month. Those who can write take to the board, helping to set the tone for the day's learning.

Our structured day runs from 9 AM to 3 PM. After the 9 AM assembly, sessions begin at 9:45 AM and continue back-to-back, interspersed with various breaks to keep the children engaged and regulated. A 15-minute snack break is followed by Brain Gym, a movement-based therapy, and a movement break, where children either walk the sensory path or play group games to enhance their interactions.



Lunch is a time for nourishment and skill-building, with psychologists, speech therapists, and occupational therapists working on feeding as part of their interventions. Post-lunch, children engage in two more sessions before packing up at 2:50 PM, ready to head home.



Every day, our juniors receive social skills, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. Twice a week, they enjoy music and art sessions, and once a week, they delight in Rainshower time. Fridays are extra special with Functional Friday activities tailored to address their specific needs.



Additionally, Sensory Integration Therapy and Oral Placement Therapy (OPT) are provided weekly by our dedicated occupational and speech therapists. Each day at CADRRE is thoughtfully designed to support the holistic development of our junior students, making learning both fun and effective.

A school day of *Preteens and Teens*

At CADRRE, the day for our preteen group kicks off with a vibrant assembly, setting a positive tone for the rest of the day. Following the assembly, the younger students engage in a calming yoga session while the older students invigorate themselves with more intensive physical exercises. Next up is a sensory circuit session, helping everyone get ready for their classes.



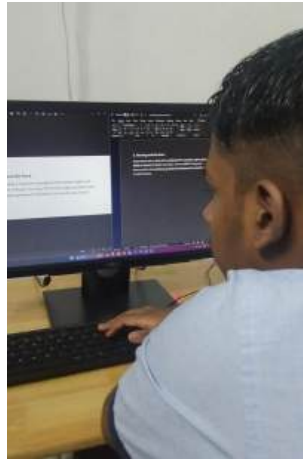
Throughout the day, our preteens and teens dive into seven dynamic 30-minute sessions. These cover a diverse range of subjects, including academics, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Occupational Therapy (OT), social skills, speech therapy, theme-based activities, and independent living skills. Outdoor games also form an integral part of their day, ensuring they stay active and engaged.

Twice a week, students unleash their creativity in music and art sessions, while once a week, they splash into fun with water play. To keep energy levels high and minds focused, movement breaks like Brain Gym and sensory breaks are interspersed throughout the day, along with snack and lunch breaks.



In the independent living skills sessions, students learn essential life skills such as grooming, laundry, culinary tasks, and gardening. For our teen group, there's an added daily practical skills session where they master stitching, bracelet making, stencil painting, and more culinary skills.

Fridays bring a special twist with Functional Friday, dedicated to tackling real-life challenges the students face, turning every obstacle into a learning opportunity.



Each day at CADRRE is carefully crafted to ensure that our preteens and teens not only learn but thrive in a nurturing and stimulating environment.

Intervention for *School-going Children*

This program supports children with minimal to mild Autistic features who can attend regular schools but need assistance with communication, social interaction, sensory issues, and cognitive challenges. Aimed at fostering language development, social skills, and motor abilities, the program helps children adapt to the school environment and develop their talents.

Scheduled from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM, the program serves six students aged 4-7 years. It begins with an assembly featuring a welcome song, attendance, and a review of the calendar and weather. Students then participate in group activities such as role play, gross and fine motor games, and rule-based games to enhance social interaction and academic skills.

Every other day, students enjoy Yoga or sensory circuit activities. Snack time promotes sharing, turn-taking, and communication skills. Interventions across various disciplines are provided, with regular toilet breaks. On Fridays, functional activities like shopping, cooking, and gardening are included. Additional activities such as park time, sensory room sessions, and pool time offer movement breaks. The program concludes with the National Anthem.



Inside CADRRE's *Employability Training Program*

Each morning at our Artism Studio bursts with the warm greetings of ETP trainees, a cherished routine that sets a positive and uplifting tone for the day. Most trainees arrive before 9 AM, allowing ample time for friendly conversations and sharing stories, ranging from breakfast choices to the latest movie experiences. Despite the engaging chatter, they ensure punctuality, ready to dive into the day's activities right at 9 AM.

The day kicks off with a refreshing yoga session, energizing the trainees for the tasks ahead. Following yoga, they transition into their scheduled sessions, each lasting between 45 minutes to an hour. Despite the long duration, trainees remain fully engaged, thanks to the sessions' interactive and dynamic format.



The curriculum covers a broad spectrum, including social and communication skills, computer training, and independent living skills, all reinforced regularly. Through the course of the week, trainees also enjoy music therapy, culinary classes, and art sessions, adding a creative flair to their learning.

The essence of "interesting" and "engaging" is captured in our experiential learning approach.

Rather than relying solely on traditional

methods, we incorporate role-playing activities and real-world outings, allowing trainees to practice and internalize their skills in practical settings.



This hands-on approach ensures sustained interest and active participation, making learning both enjoyable and effective.

Sessions wrap up at 12 PM with heartfelt farewells exchanged among trainees and trainers. Skills such as waving goodbye, greeting others, and taking turns are seamlessly integrated into their daily routines, emphasizing their social relevance.



Each day at CADRRE presents new opportunities for exploration and growth, fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment that encourages our trainees to thrive.

Embracing Potential:

A Glimpse into a day at The Artism Studio's Skills Centre

The program, which commenced in June 2022, offers a three-hour training session every day, Monday through Saturday, from 9:30 to 12:30.

The day kicks off with a soothing yoga session, held in one of our picturesque gazebos, setting the stage for a day filled with mindfulness and focus. Divided into two groups based on their skill levels, our trainees eagerly immerse themselves in skills training by 10 o'clock, guided by our dedicated mentors.

As they delve into various activities and exercises designed to enhance their skill sets, our trainees also take breaks to recharge and connect with their peers. These moments of camaraderie foster a sense of belonging and support within the group.

At 12:20, as the session draws to a close, our trainees take time for reflection, jotting down their thoughts and insights from the day's activities. This introspective practice helps them solidify their learnings and prepare for future learnings. But Fridays hold a special magic, as we welcome the teen group of students from the Autism School Sasthamangalam, who are introduced to skills activities which would eventually help them transition into choosing a vocation in their adulthood.

And on Mondays, our trainees come together for a heart-warming music therapy session, uniting in the joy of shared experiences and the healing power of music.

In the Skills Training Program at CADRRE The Artism Studio, every day is an opportunity for our trainees to discover their potential, build meaningful connections, and embark on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment.



WOW Moments!

Celebrating Bright Sparks

At CADRRE, it's the little things that often mean the most. A simple gesture, a heartfelt smile, a gentle touch, or even just a nod from one of our students can brighten the entire day for our teachers and team. These small, yet profound interactions remind us why we do what we do. Here, we share a few special moments that have brought us immense joy and excitement throughout the year.

Meet Mahi, our little safety monitor! Whenever he spots someone without a mask or with it down, he's quick to remind them with a cheerful "MASK!" He's our guardian of safety, making sure we're all protected.



Let's talk about Jiyon and his unique nicknames! To him, his Malayalam teacher Rafna is "*Nadine Rakshicha Veerabahu*." One day, when Rafna was absent, we asked Jiyon where she was, without skipping a beat, he replied, "*Nadine Rakshicha Veerabahu* absent," explaining that "*Veerabahuvinu pani*," meaning she had a fever. His creativity never fails to bring smiles!

We have Tharun, who showed us the power of apology! Startled by a scream one day, he accidentally pulled Theerth's hair. But in a heart-warming moment, he quickly realized his mistake and exclaimed, "I am Sorry," showing us all the importance of owning up and making things right.





Fiona's friendship journey is pure sweetness! We've watched her light up as she makes friends with her classmates, especially her best friend Ameya. Their hugs and kind gestures make our hearts melt. And when Ameya feels sad, Fiona is there to cheer her up. It's like watching a real-life friendship fairy-tale unfold!

It's always heartwarming when students show love for their teachers! Ameya, started mentioning her favourite teacher's name at home, much to the delight of her parents. It's a testament to the special bond between students and teachers at our school.



Artistry magic with Gyan! During our art exhibition preparations, Gyan surprised everyone by confidently choosing pink for his canvas background instead of the expected darker shades. As he painted a vibrant rainbow and fluffy clouds, his creativity knew no bounds. And when it came to mixing colors, Gyan's instincts were spot-on, creating the perfect shades with a simple "cyan and pink."

His masterpiece left us all in awe!

Hazeeb, the king of kindness and dance floors! During games like musical chairs, he's always looking out for his friends, letting them win when they need a boost. And when his favorite songs start playing, he's the first to grab a friend's hand and hit the dance floor, spreading joy and creating unforgettable moments of friendship for life!



When Dhyan communicated his needs - When it was close to home time, Dhyan surprised us all by communicating through writing for the first time. When asked if he wanted to go home, he replied with a "no," but when prompted about what he wanted, he wrote "song." And that's not all! Another time, when he was feeling upset in class, he wrote "tang", showing us his love for the drink. It's these little victories that make our hearts sing with joy!



Let's celebrate Arnold's remarkable journey! Arnold joined the ETP program as a shy and quiet person. Despite initial challenges, he successfully cleared an interview on Database Management Systems with UST and is now a permanent employee. Arnold defies the common misconception that individuals with autism are aloof—he is one of the most caring and kind souls, always willing to help his friends. Way to go, Arnold!

Let's talk about Abhilash, our artistic prodigy! During the CADRRE Art Week event, he dazzled everyone with his incredible talent. With no reference images or guidance, Abhilash unleashed his creativity and created six stunning paintings. His artwork stole the show, earning him wide acclaim and showcasing his exceptional artistic skills.



Meet Karthik, our happy wanderer at The Artism Studio! While settling into the routine, he explored every nook and cranny with curiosity and joy. From yoga to music therapy to cooking, he soaked in all the activities around him. But it was on Independence Day that he stole the show! With a beaming smile, he proudly waved the national flag, leading the group with confidence and grace. Karthik truly owned the role of the flag bearer, spreading happiness wherever he went.



Gokul Krishna, our budding chef extraordinaire! Just a few weeks into the Skills Training program, it was clear that cooking was his passion. With newfound confidence from the culinary sessions at The Artism Studio, he decided to take charge of the kitchen at home one evening. From scratch, he prepared delicious rotis for himself and his parents, leaving everyone impressed. His proud parents even shared a video of his culinary adventure, showing how much confidence he has gained in such a short time. Way to go, Gokul!

Adithyan, spreading joy with his achievements! A member of the ETP's third batch, he recently visited CADRRE to share a special moment with us. With a beaming smile, he unveiled his brand-new mobile phone, bought with his hard-earned internship earnings. It's a significant milestone for Adithyan and fills us with immense pride to see his success journey unfold before our eyes.



The year in review:

Skills training at the Artism Studio

Adulthood in autism brings in a whole lot of realizations and awakenings, where most parents and therapists would have finally arrived at deciding what works best for the individual on the spectrum. It is a turning point where we get a glimpse of the bigger picture, a moment to introspect and explore what is important for the person- happy existence, occupation/vocation, independent living and so on. Understanding and aligning their interests to create a workspace for themselves is a decision that demands keen observation, constant reviews and analyses.

The second academic year at CADRRE The Artism Studio, since its inception in June 2022, had 4 autistic adults in the age range of 22 years to 28 years joining us for the Skills Training Program. The staff's motivation to accommodate the diverse skill sets of all six trainees led us to explore additional skills that could enable us to develop more products suitable for sales pitches.

As we turn 2 years old, the Skills Training program now boasts of several skills and products with a definite plan etched out for each trainee- bracelet making, candle making, handmade soap making, screen printing and so on. Given that all our trainees rely on parental assistance to establish an entrepreneurial venture, it was crucial to ensure that the parents also received training in the chosen skill set for their children. We were able to successfully plan individual skills training sessions for parents followed by assisting them with information on marketing the products through social media. Since the Skills Training Program itself is time bound- a 9 months course divided into 3 phases- the staff and the parents worked in perfect unison to achieve the goal



Lava Bead Bracelets



Mini Canvas Paintings



As part of finding opportunities for work for our trainees, we also took up corporate gifting orders, like we had done the previous year. Creating personalized mini wishing bottles for Taj Green Cove Resort and Spa, Kovalam was one such order that our trainees worked on for around 4 months consistently. It has also become customary for our trainees to work on end-of-the-year gifts for all students and staff of CADRRE, across the 3 centres which was followed this year too.

All the activities at CADRRE The Artism Studio stringently follow a Green Protocol, contributing to environmental sustainability and minimizing ecological footprint. This is reflected even in the choice of products that we bring out. Beer bottles from local clubs are collected and get processed into drinking glasses and containers for our hand poured candles. Discarded printer paper from our centres get a new life as handmade recycled paper which is used in the gift hampers curated at The Artism Studio. All our candles and soaps only use essential oils instead of the cheaper artificial fragrance oils. The materials used for packaging the products also are thoughtfully chosen to avoid single use plastic. Jute threads and paper honeycomb wraps take the place of plastic tapes and bubble wraps, which are all small steps towards fostering a culture of sustainability.





A customised hamper

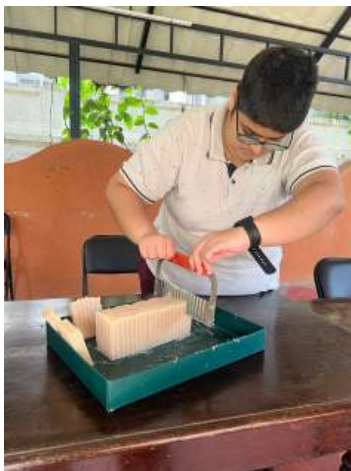


Fridge magnets



Christmas hamper

To ensure a smooth transition of the teen students from the Sasthamangalam centre, this year we happily welcomed 3 teen students who would spend an entire day every week at The Artism Studio. This was scheduled on Fridays and was a great way to end their long week. They were given an opportunity to pick skills activities of their choice and work on perfecting their skills in a least restrictive environment. They also bring in ingredients to cook a dish which is prepared at the training kitchen and they enjoy tasting it with their friends.



Employability Training Program

The past year has been marked by significant milestones and advancements within the Employability Training Program. From successful placements to the induction of a new batch, it has been a period of substantial growth and learning for our team. Our trainees have secured internship positions across diverse sectors.



Mukund (right) has been interning with Westside, a Tata Enterprise.



Our trainees from the first batch, Rohit and Liya, have had their internships extended at EY.



Malavika has been working as a teacher assistant to preschoolers at CADRRE.

Abhilash and Adithyan have been interning at Taj Green Cove Resort & Spa Kovalam, a subsidiary of the India Hotels Company Limited.





Arnold (left image center) and Rohan secured positions at UST Global, Arnold as a full-time equivalent employee.

This year saw a notable shift towards hands-on sessions, replacing classroom-centric approaches and significantly improving trainees' skills and performance. Enhanced support for placed trainees facilitated their professional journeys and aided neurodiversity program operations. Participation in events like CADRRE Art Week and the International Filmlet Festival offered valuable social exposure and skill application opportunities.

Next academic year, we aim to enhance our Employability Training Program with more weekly practical sessions, involving industry professionals, and incorporating diverse therapy-based sessions to improve trainees' job-specific skills and overall development.

One of our key initiatives is to organize a conference discussing employability issues relevant to individuals with autism, offering an opportunity for meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing. Through these efforts, we are dedicated to advancing the ETP and empowering our trainees with the tools and resources necessary for their professional growth and success.

Aravind has cleared the IRDA exam and is going to be an insurance advisor with Aditya Birla Group Insurance.



To celebrate the tenacity and perseverance our trainees of the Employability Training Program have shown in completing their yearlong training course, we organized a special celebration in



July. We had a small function to celebrate and acknowledge not just our trainees, but also their families who have been an integral part of this journey! The parents have been excited and happy to hear their child talk about how the program has benefitted them and about their work.

A parent spoke of how the program has given a strong foothold to his son and irrespective of what opportunities await him, he is now in a better position in terms of being independent.

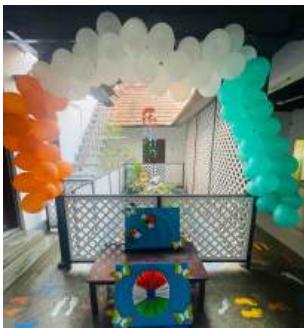
People who are neurodivergent frequently have exceptional focus, attention to detail, and original problem-solving abilities. They do not get bored by repetitive tasks and are inclined towards routines; according to studies, their productivity can exceed that of their neurotypical colleagues. Furthermore, neurodiverse employees frequently demonstrate high levels of loyalty and job retention, which supports a steady and dedicated workforce. It has been advantageous for both the employees individually and the organization to acknowledge the distinct capabilities and viewpoints of neurodiverse people.

We cannot thank Westside by Tata Group, Taj Hotels Taj Green Cove Resort & Spa Kovalam, EY, UST Global and Aditya Birla Health Insurance, enough for realizing the benefits of a diverse work environment, driving the change and being in the forefront of creating neurodivergent workspaces, and most importantly, for being empathetic employers to our students as they step out into the world.

Joyous Occasions at CADRRE!

At CADRRE, every festival is a vibrant and joyous affair, embraced wholeheartedly by teachers and students alike. These celebrations are special times when the families of our students and staff come together, fostering connections and creating a sense of community. They also provide our students with the chance to immerse themselves in different cultural traditions, enriching their learning experiences and enhancing their social skills.

CADRRE's Independence Day



We commemorated the 77th Indian Independence Day with a series of exciting activities across our three centers. A highlight of the celebration was seeing the children dressed as iconic freedom fighters, including Subash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, and Bhagat Singh. Teachers recounted stories on India's freedom struggle, helping them grasp the significance and spirit of the occasion.

At the PMG center, pre-schoolers adorned their surroundings with beautifully crafted national flags and pictures of freedom fighters, complete with their famous quotes. Meanwhile, at the Sasthamangalam center, Teen and Pre-Teen students decorated their space with an Independence Day theme, creating a visually inspiring environment.

The Artism Studio saw a vibrant performance where trainees danced to a patriotic song. One trainee, dressed as Mahatma Gandhi, delivered an inspiring speech about India's journey to independence, adding a personal touch to the celebrations.





Our students not only had a fantastic time but also gained a deeper appreciation of our national heritage. Through engaging and fun class activities, they learned more about India's path to independence and the importance of unity and mutual support in our community.

Our students showcased a variety of crafts for Independence Day, all of which were proudly displayed at the Sasthamangalam Centre. The exhibition was a success, with many parents attending to admire their children's creative efforts.



Onam Splendor

Onam, a major harvest festival of Kerala, is a grand spectacle that embodies the rich art, culture, and traditions of the region.

This year at CADRRE, we pulled out all the stops to ensure our Onam celebrations were filled with joy and excitement for our students!

We began the celebrations a week in advance, allowing students to immerse themselves in the festival's traditions and better understand its significance. Recognizing that unexpected changes can be stressful for students on the autism spectrum, we scheduled daily activities, giving them something exciting to anticipate each day.

Each day, students and staff dressed in lively colors, engaging in various themed activities. Highlights included children participating in Pulikali with adorable tiger prints, dressing up as the mythical King Maveli, and rowing imaginary boats in traditional mundu attire.



Our employability program trainees contributed by crafting handwritten cards for all students, adding a heartfelt touch to the celebration. The week was filled with games, payasam-making, and on the final day, everyone donned their traditional best. Together, we created an impressive pookalam with flowers brought by each student, posed for group photos, sang songs, and enjoyed group performances.



The staff relished a traditional sadya, followed by entertaining games, performances, and a treasure hunt that brought a whirlwind of fun to the center.



Diwali Spectacle

Our Diwali celebration at CADRRE was a truly enchanting experience! Students arrived dressed in their finest traditional attire, filling the center with vibrant colors and joyous spirits. The center itself was transformed with beautiful lights and decorations, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere.

The day was filled with delightful activities: children played games, painted diyas, and brought the festival to life with their colorful drawings. Enjoying Diwali sweets together fostered a sense of community, and lighting sparklers added an extra touch of magic to the celebration.



It was a Diwali brimming with light, color, warmth, and love.

CADRRE's Yuletide Cheer

Our Christmas at CADRRE was a joyous affair, with preparations beginning in the second week of December. Students actively participated in the festive preparations, creating DIY Christmas decorations and helping to transform our centers into winter wonderlands.

To ensure a smooth transition from their daily routines, we planned our programs well in advance. Using social stories, we introduced each activity to the children, providing them with a clear understanding of the upcoming festivities.



On the last day of school before the Christmas break, the students arrived dressed in their festive best - red, green, and white. The day was filled with special performances: the junior group put on a delightful Christmas play, trainees from the Employability Training Program sang beautiful carols, and several students showcased individual acts.



In the spirit of giving and sharing, we organized a Secret Santa activity where students exchanged thoughtful gifts with one another.



Our Christmas celebration was filled with love, warmth, excitement, and fun.



Embracing Vishu at CADRRE

Amidst the vibrant halls of CADRRE, we embarked on a splendid journey of celebration, immersing ourselves in the joyous spirit of vishu on the 12th of April. A majestic Vishu kani stood as the harbinger of festivity, warmly welcoming parents and children alike. Enthusiasm danced in their eyes as they beheld the Kani, some standing in awe to explore its intricate elements.



The children, dressed in their traditional best, radiated charm and innocence, and we captured these timeless moments through the lens of photographs. Amidst laughter and fun, they savored delectable snacks and engaged in playful activities. A young Krishna, adorned in resplendent attire, spread cheer amongst his peers. In a gesture of affection, our esteemed Director, G Vijaya Raghavan, presented each student with a personalized fridge magnet crafted by the skilled hands of trainees from The Artism Studio by cadrre. CADRRE bid farewell to its students for a summer hiatus, eagerly anticipating the reunion with its cherished students on the 5th of June.



CADRRE's Holi - painting smiles, spreading love!

Our Holi celebration was an explosion of colour and joy! The trainees arrived dressed in dazzling whites, ready to embrace the vibrant festivities. They kicked off the day with a spirited rangoli making competition, unleashing their creativity with an array of colourful designs and combinations.

In the kitchen, they embarked on a sweet adventure, learning to make delicious boondi sweets with boundless excitement and curiosity. As the sun reached its zenith, it was time for the main activity - the color play! With organic watercolours in hand, they splashed and smeared vibrant hues, painting the air with laughter and cheer

With music filling the air, they danced away, their inhibitions melting away in the rhythm of the celebration. It was a Holi to remember, filled with laughter, camaraderie, and cherished memories to carry home.



Parent Testimonials

"CADRRE is truly a haven for our children, where they've found not just education, but a loving home. Since joining in September 2023, our twins, diagnosed on the spectrum in May 2023, have blossomed under the nurturing care of the staff. The dedication of both teaching and non-teaching members is evident in their empathetic approach and passion for their work. From weekly assessments to round-the-clock support, CADRRE ensures every child's needs are met with utmost care. The innovative use of camera access is just one example of their commitment to transparency and excellence.

We are immensely grateful to everyone at CADRRE for their unwavering support and dedication. Special thanks to the founder, Mr. G Vijayaraghavan, whose guidance and vision make CADRRE a sanctuary for our children. CADRRE isn't just a school; it's a place where every festival is celebrated, every child is cherished, and every family finds comfort and blessings." - Unni & Ponnu's mother



"CADRRE isn't just a school; it's a place where every festival is celebrated, every child is cherished, and every family finds comfort and blessings."

"My daughter has been with CADRRE for the last eight months, and she is happy to go to school every day. Throughout the day, she is kept engaged and interested with various activities. Her sensory needs are well supported, and guidance is provided to parents through the weekly mentor meetings. We are happy and thankful that she is enjoying school and for all the help she receives." - Ameya's mother



I am very happy with CADRRE. Mahi is doing very well and has changed a lot in his habits and daily routine. He is happy to go to school every day and has shown significant improvement in his academics. CADRRE focuses on Mahi's overall development. The entire team of teachers and support staff is very good, supportive, and caring, attending to all of Mahi's needs. Thank you for all your support, Team CADRRE. - Mahi's mother

My search for a good school all across India for my daughter with cerebral palsy ended with CADRRE. CADRRE is led by a professional team that helps children excel in the fields they are good at. To me, the most reassuring aspect of this school is the ensured safety of my child. I wish CADRRE and its team all the very best for their future endeavors. - Pooja's mother



"Choosing CADRRE for our loved one Siddhi's early intervention and therapies has been one of the most rewarding decisions we've made. From the moment we walked through their doors, we were met with compassion, expertise, and a genuine commitment to Siddhi's well-being. Their approach is not just about therapy; they understand that every individual with neurodiversity is unique and deserves a personalized approach. CADRRE creates a supportive environment where our loved one feels understood, valued, and capable of achieving their fullest potential. Their innovative techniques and tailored programs have brought about remarkable progress in our loved one's communication, social skills, and independence. Their support extends to educating families, offering invaluable guidance every step of the way. We wholeheartedly recommend CADRRE to anyone seeking exceptional intervention and education for their loved ones. Thank you, CADRRE, for your invaluable support." - Sidhi's father



"CADRRE creates a supportive environment where our loved one feels understood, valued, and capable of achieving their fullest potential."

We, the parents of Abey Tom Bino, express our sincere thanks from the bottom of our hearts to CADRRE. We had years of uncertainty and fear about where to find the care Abey needed. Intermittent therapies were not helping him much, and the notoriety of special schools was holding us back. We learned about CADRRE through his speech therapist, Janki Ma'am, but didn't dream of admission due to the long waiting list. However, God and CADRRE opened the path for us once we attended the Parent Assisted Intervention, a novel initiative by CADRRE. After spending two weeks in this program, we were absolutely sure CADRRE was the right place after experiencing all the facilities and the proficiency and care of the staff in person. CADRRE has undoubtedly molded Abey over the past year, but importantly, it changed our outlook on autism. The regular workshops and interactive sessions help us to be proud parents of a gifted boy. We have not seen the happiness and care shown by CADRRE faculty even in regular schools. When we enter the CADRRE campus, it's a paradise of joy and smiles where the outside world and problems seem meaningless. CADRRE's touching act of prominently displaying "Autism" more than the school name on signs in the heart of the city is commendable as it slowly changes the way people see an autistic child. Thank you, CADRRE, for the care and love." - Abey's parents

"CADRRE has undoubtedly molded Abey over the past year, but importantly, it changed our outlook on autism."



"Yathu's enrollment at CADRRE was the result of long and careful planning. Despite this, we had many apprehensions about how he would adapt to this change. However, it was a well-planned start at school. It began with a few hours of initial stay, supported by a good number of staff, and gradually extended to six hours a day. We observed him throughout the day for almost a year, witnessing the team's efforts to make him comfortable and engage him in various ways. We started noticing positive changes, like him playing roles such as Krishna, Jesus, Mother Mary, Vamana, and Gandhiji, which we never expected so soon.

Activities outside school also helped, whether it was trips to Lulu Mall, farmhouse visits, or outings to Akulam Park and the supermarket. His engagement with the external world was improving. After two and a half years with CADRRE, it now feels like a second home to Yathu. We know he is in the best hands. Our eternal gratitude to Team CADRRE." - Yathu's father



"After two and a half years with CADRRE, it now feels like a second home to Yathu. We know he is in the best hands."

The most important thing for my son, Vivekanand, at CADRRE is that he is enthusiastic about going to school, which was not the case with his previous schools. This is undoubtedly due to the exceptional way the kids are treated at CADRRE. Our association with CADRRE and its faculty has been a significant morale booster for us as parents. Monthly meetings and ongoing discussions on various aspects of child development and future goals have been immensely helpful.

One significant development we have observed in our son is his improved ability to communicate meaningfully with us. Issues we faced with his home routines, such as excessive use of mobile phones, have been greatly resolved through the guidance and planned interventions of the faculty. CADRRE has also organized various programs for parents, providing us with knowledge to better understand and respond to our child in more appropriate ways.

We are pleased to see that Vivekanand is not only doing well academically but also engaging in various social interactions through the Functional Fridays organized at school. We are extremely grateful that our child is with CADRRE and look forward to his continued development and success.

I can confidently say that there is no better school than CADRRE for children with ASD.

- Vivekanand's father



“One significant development we have observed in our son is his improved ability to communicate meaningfully with us.”

My son, Madhav (Appu), who is 8 years old, has been a student of CADRRE since January 2022. The pandemic and lockdown affected him severely, impacting our mental health as well. Then we discovered CADRRE. I still remember his first day there; we were skeptical about how he would adapt to his new environment. We expected him to attend classes for at least an hour, but to our astonishment, he started participating in activities with great interest from the first day onward. We received the right feedback and knew he was in capable hands.

From the moment Madhav stepped into CADRRE, it was clear that the therapists, teachers, and even the support staff were there not just to fulfill a job but to make a profound difference in the lives of their students. They recognize his unique strengths and challenges, tailoring their approach to ensure he receives the individual support he needs to thrive. Their patience, empathy, and unwavering belief in Madhav's potential have been instrumental in his growth and development. Since joining CADRRE, Madhav has made remarkable progress and continually learns new things. We are eternally thankful for the love and care the teachers at CADRRE pour into their work every day. CADRRE School is more than just a place of learning; it's a second home where every child is embraced with love, understanding, and endless possibilities.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team of CADRRE." - Appu's mother



"It was clear that the therapists, teachers, and even the support staff were there not just to fulfill a job but to make a profound difference in the lives of their students."

“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” said the famous poet P.B. Shelley, signifying that hope and renewal are never far away even in the bleakest of times. This sentiment resonates with me and many parents of children on the spectrum. Bringing a positive vibe into our daily routine often leads to unexpected moments of happiness, as I've experienced with my son Evan, who is turning 14 this May.

Evan loves to color and paint, although he cannot create drawings on his own. His clear strokes show his pursuit of perfection despite his life's imperfections. The teachers at CADRRE have given him the freedom to paint and color anything on his own, resulting in a series of remarkable creations. This year, he participated in the painting exhibition and sale at “The Autism School,” an incredible achievement beyond our expectations. I spent hours admiring his paintings, amazed at his talent.

During the Christmas holidays, Evan surprised us again by showing interest in badminton. When I gave him a racket, he started serving the shuttlecock effortlessly. It turns out he had received some training at school, a testament to CADRRE's dedication.

This is what I mean when I say, “can spring be far behind.” Little by little, day by day, our children's talents will unfold and blossom. We need to accept that our children are special, with their own unique ways and timelines for doing things.

Thanks to “The Autism School” and its wonderful team of mentors, tutors, and therapists who understand the needs of our special kids. - Evan's mother



“His clear strokes show his pursuit of perfection despite his life's imperfections.”

CADRRE is an extension of my family. The teachers, therapists, and staff are a caring, loving group of professionals we have had the honor of knowing. My son, Gyan, has improved significantly in his social skills since attending CADRRE. It gives me peace of mind knowing that he is making friends in such a supportive, caring environment.

- Gyan's mother

"CADRRE is an extension of my family."



Our son was 2.5 years old when he joined CADRRE. CADRRE has provided every element important for his overall development. It was the best decision we made for our child since his diagnosis. It's my child's second home where he is loved, appreciated, and taught.

- Tharun's mother

"It's my child's second home where he is loved, appreciated, and taught."

When we relocated to Trivandrum from Bangalore, we were uncertain about finding a reliable support system for our son, Gokul, who has special needs. It was providence that led us to CADRRE and introduced us to Mr. Vijaya Raghavan. The team at CADRRE The Autism Studio is compassionate, exceptionally trained, and empathetic, catering to each child's special needs with great care.

Gokul had a pleasant time at CADRRE and looked forward to going to the center every morning. The tailored programs and emphasis on real-world applications have made a tangible difference, significantly boosting his confidence. CADRRE's commitment to empowering special children to face life's many challenges is truly commendable. We appreciate and thank CADRRE for equipping our son with life skills he can use. - Gokul's parents



"The tailored programs and emphasis on real-world applications have made a tangible difference, significantly boosting my son's confidence."

As a parent of an autistic child, I can't express enough gratitude for the transformative experience provided by the Employment Training Program at CADRRE - The Autism School. Under their guidance, my child not only underwent remarkable personality development but also found employment, a testament to the efficiency of their programs. The dedication and support from the teachers were excellent, offering tailored mentoring that empowered my child to navigate the professional world with confidence. I attribute much of this success to the visionary leadership of Vijaya Raghavan Sir. The mentors, under his guidance, are very dedicated, ensuring that each student receives the individualized attention they need. Thanks to CADRRE, my child was able to embrace his unique abilities. - Mukund's mother

"The dedication and support from the teachers were excellent, offering tailored mentoring that empowered my child to navigate the professional world with confidence."



My son Nathan (10 yrs) is a student of CADRRE Trivandrum. Nathan was brought up abroad till age of 9 and we were relocating to Kerala. We had concerns about how Nathan would adapt with CADRRE as he is totally new to living in Kerala environment. But our anguish lasted only for few weeks after he started going to school. He got acclimatized very soon with CADRRE teachers and caretaker aunties. They helped him very much in adapting to the new environment and taken care of his every needs like eating. We are very thankful to the CADRRE management and staff for the warm love and affection they poured on Nathan. Also we appreciate the developments he had in terms of his education and skills since joining the institution. - Nathan's mother



"We appreciate the developments he had in terms of his education and skills since joining the institution."

I am incredibly grateful for the exceptional therapy provided by CADRRE. My son has shown remarkable progress since starting his sessions here. His communication skills have flourished, allowing him to express himself more confidently. Moreover, his enthusiasm to attend sessions speaks volumes about the nurturing environment at the center. Not only has he improved socially, but his behavior has also seen significant positive changes. One of the most impressive outcomes of his therapy journey has been the development of his motor skills. Watching him achieve milestones that once seemed out of reach has been truly heartwarming. Overall, I wholeheartedly recommend CADRRE to anyone seeking professional and effective therapy for their loved ones. The dedication and expertise of the staff have made a world of difference in my son's life, and I am forever grateful for their support. - Shawn's mother

"Watching my son achieve milestones that once seemed out of reach has been truly heartwarming."



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