

DOWN'S UPDATE



MEET OUR TEAM

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2017 - 2019 Loo Ai Choo
2019 - 2021 Teng Ah Ching
2021 - 2023 Godfrey Rajalingam

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YBhg Toh Puan Ena Ling

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[#kiwanisdownsyndrome](https://www.instagram.com/kiwanisdownsyndrome/)

ACTIVITIES

WITH KDSFNC CHILDREN & STAFF



SPORTS DAY 2024

Sports Day was successfully held at SK Damansara Jaya on 7 September 2024, attended by 58 students and their families. The event was supported by around 20 staff members from Mattel and 10 university student volunteers. Mattel also generously provided gifts for the children. Students from all classes actively took part in the competitions, and the day concluded with a fun and engaging family telematch.



BAKE & BOND - LEVI STRAUSS (M)

The Levi CSR event featured a successful webinar on 29 August followed by a Bake & Bond activity at MyTown on 5 September. A total of 25 students and their parents had a wonderful time bonding with 25 Levi volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our teachers and therapists for their support.



During the event, Rina Lim, a KCKL member who facilitated the connection between KDSF National Centre (KDSFNC) and Levi, presented our coffee table book, *Unlabel to Understand*, to Levi's Country Manager, Imran Butt. In a generous show of support, the Levi Global Online Giving Foundation donated USD \$3,000 to KDSF-NC. We are deeply grateful for Levi's commitment to making a difference in the lives of children with Down syndrome!



DANCERITY BY KCKL

Dancerity 2024
Dance for Charity

Do you enjoy dancing and doing your bit for charity at the same time?
If yes, then come join Dancerity 2024 in support of **Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation - National Centre**

Session A
9am - 12pm
Zumba

Session B
1pm - 5pm
Line Dance

Door Gifts
Best Dressed
Food & Accessories
Stalls

When: Saturday 6th July 2024
Where: Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation National Centre Hall
Lot 13490 Jalan Jenjarom, 47400 Petaling Jaya
Tickets: RM50/pax/session OR
RM80/pax for 2 sessions
Pay to: Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur
Maybank Acc 5122 3158 9512
Whatsapp slip to Jocelyn 012-205 8997 with NAME & SESSION

Organised by

 **Kiwanis**



On 6 July 2024, the KDSF-NC team participated in the Dancerity event, organized by the Kiwanis Club of Kuala Lumpur (KCKL), to promote the Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation National Centre (KDSFNC) and raise awareness about Down syndrome. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, our booth successfully raised RM1,028, while KCKL contributed an incredible RM33,000 from the event proceeds to support the centre.

We are incredibly thankful for the community's support, which empowers us to positively impact the lives of children with Down Syndrome. A big thank you to everyone!

INNOVATE TO INSPIRE

KDSF-NC is thrilled to announce that we have received a generous WeGive donation of approximately USD 5,000 from the Equinix Foundation!

The @Equinix Foundation WeGive program helps to bridge the digital divide and create a more accessible, equitable and interconnected digital future at a local level. This donation, in addition to the volunteer support from Equinix employees, will help further our work and mission. Thank you, Equinix and the Equinix Foundation for your partnership!



As part of this initiative, we are upgrading our teaching program at KDSF-NC with iPads and tablets to enhance digital literacy, communication skills, and fine motor development through interactive learning tools.

To maximize their impact, all staff will undergo Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) training, equipping them with the skills to effectively use assistive technology in the classroom.

This sponsorship means a lot to us, and we're excited about the positive impact it will have on enhancing our students' learning experiences.

LITTLE STEPS, BIG IMPACT

KDSFNC RAISING AWARENESS ON DOWN SYNDROME



Instructional Strategies
for Children with Down
Syndrome

On 9 July 2024, Teacher Rosnah was invited to speak at Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) on Instructional Strategies for Children with Down syndrome. Alongside Teacher Azra, who introduced the Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation (KDSF) and its mission, they shared valuable insights with lecturers on how to better support students with Down Syndrome through tailored teaching methods. The event was inspiring, fostering meaningful discussions and raising awareness about the importance of inclusive education. We extend our heartfelt thanks to TAR UMT for this wonderful opportunity!

Keep It Real @

Roche



On 21 August 2024, the KDSFNC team—Angie Heng, Lee Sook Foong, and Teacher Rosnah—had the privilege of being guest speakers for the "Keep it Real" segment hosted by Roche Services & Solutions. The session featured an inspiring sharing by KDSFNC ex-parent Ashley Pang on her journey with Alex, while our team provided insights into KDSF's work and our experiences in teaching children with Down syndrome. We also highlighted the importance of embracing diversity and inclusion, with approximately 20 Roche staff participating in the session.



Bengkel Kemahiran
Keibubapaan Anak-anak
Sindrom Down

Persatuan Anak Istimewa Sindrom Down Terengganu (ITQAN) held the Bengkel Kemahiran Keibubapaan Anak-anak Sindrom Down Negeri Terengganu Siri 2 & 3 from 22 to 24 August 2024. Teacher Rosnah was invited to share insights on the 3M Program (Membaca, Menulis, Mengira), offering strategies to support literacy and numeracy development in children with Down syndrome.

Teaching Strategies for Learners with
Comorbidities in Learning Disabilities & Down
Syndrome

On 12 November 2024, Teacher Rosnah was invited to speak at a workshop titled "Teaching Strategies for Learners with Comorbidities in Learning Disabilities and Down Syndrome," organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN) at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSII), Tanjung Malim. This marked Teacher Rosnah's second invitation from SEAMEO SEN. Teacher Ina also contributed to the workshop by delivering a presentation on KDSF, sharing insights into the centre's work and approach.



FGD on
"Pembangunan
Module Asuhan
dan Jagaan Kanak-
Kanak Syndrome Down



الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية ماليزيا
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
يَوْمَ نَسُفُ السَّمَاوَاتِ كَالسَّمَانِ الّذِي يُغْشَى الْبِلَدَ نَسْفَةً

On 25 October 2024, Teacher Rosnah and Lee Sook Foong served as panelists in a focus group discussion at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan, on developing the "Modul Asuhan dan Jagaan Kanak-Kanak OKU Sindrom Down," a specialized module for the care, rehabilitation, and education of children with Down syndrome under six. The session gathered valuable insights from various stakeholders on effective early intervention practices.

On 23 November 2024, IIUM invited Teacher Rosnah to be a panelist at a Town Hall Forum at Hotel Zenith, Putrajaya, where she spoke on the importance of early intervention alongside parents of children with DS and a representative from Anak Istimewa Selangor (ANIS). The forum was attended by over 50 participants.

TOGETHER
TOGETHER



PARTNER,
EMPOWER.

KDSFNC PARENT READING SESSIONS



The PSG organized three fantastic reading sessions for parents: Session 1 (16 July 2024) led by PSG parent Mei Sun, Session 2 (23 July 2024) co-hosted by Mei Sun and Rosnah, and Session 3 (25 July 2024) conducted by Rosnah. These hands-on sessions focused on practical activities to enhance reading skills, such as using flashcards, creating personalized books, and teaching parents effective reading techniques with their child. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to learn, connect, and support their child's reading development!

HEARING CARE FOR CHILDREN

Dr. Chong Foong Yen, Audiologist and Senior Lecturer from UKM, presented a hybrid talk on "Hearing Care for Children with Down Syndrome" on 22 October 2024. Her informative session covered the hearing system and emphasized the importance of regular audiological tests for children with Down syndrome, providing parents with essential knowledge. A total of 19 parents attended, with 8 joining in person and 11 participating online.



Sing & Play with Your Child

Jessie conducted two sessions of "Sing & Play with Your Child" for KDSF parents on 5th and 7th November. Through classroom observations, pull-out sessions, and discussions with teachers, therapists, and parents, she identified strategies to support parents in enhancing their child's language development. A total of 14 parents attended the first session, and 10 parents participated in the second.



PROGRAM PENDIDIKAN KHAS INTEGRASI (PPKI)



On 18 July 2024, KDSFNC hosted an informative talk on the Program Pendidikan Khas Integrasi (PPKI) with speakers from SK Damansara Jaya 1, SK Subang Bestari, and SJK (C) Sam Yoke. The session covered PPKI objectives, registration, program structure, and support strategies for children with Down syndrome. The parents felt that the event is insightful.



As a follow-up, on 15 October 2024, 17 SRP students and nearly 30 parents visited PPKI SJKC Sam Yoke. The children joined PPKI students for snack time and an activity, while parents attended a briefing that concluded with a school tour. These efforts aim to provide exposure for parents and give students firsthand experience as they transition to primary school.



KDSFNC DENTAL CHECK & TALK

On 6 August 2024, PSG, in collaboration with the KDSFNC team, organized a dental check-up for 43 children and a dental talk for parents, with the UiTM team in attendance. The event featured fun activities for the children, including coloring, social stories, a tooth brushing drill in the classroom, and a bulldozer game station in the hall. The event concluded with PSG presenting certificates of appreciation to the UiTM team



LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



9TH NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION CONFERENCE

The KDSFNC team—Teacher Adlina, Azra, Christy, Hajar, and Lee Sook Foong—attended a conference from 14–16 September 2024, focusing on Family-Centred Practices and Strength-Based Approaches in supporting children with special needs. A key highlight of the event was the launch of Small Steps, Big Changes for Preschool Inclusion: Toolbox of Strategies to Implement Inclusive Education by Ng Lai-Thin.

MAKATON WORKSHOP



On 20 July 2024, our team – Ashwini, Felissa, Azra, Hajar, and Jessie – attended a Makaton Communication workshop by Malaysian Care. From 9am to 3pm, they learned Makaton Levels 1 & 2, expanding their vocabulary and communication skills. The event, with approximately 25 participants, included staff from Malaysian Care, parents of children with Down syndrome, KDSF staff, and educators from early intervention centres. It was both enjoyable and insightful.

LET'S COMMUNICATE



On 6 August 2024, Teacher Rosnah, Teacher Mary, and Teacher Jessie attended the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) workshop titled "Let's Communicate," organized by Hospital Putrajaya. The workshop explored various AAC tools, the rationale behind using AAC, and included a hands-on session on creating a communication board using BoardMaker.

YEAR END TRAINING 2024

The Year-End Training, held from 25 to 27 November 2024, brought together participants from KDSFJB (5), KDSF Melaka (2), and all KDSFNC staff. Klang Centre was unable to attend due to ongoing classes. On 28 November, the KDSFNC team focused on a curriculum review and revisited KDSF's mission, led by Mr. Lee Kuan Yong, President of Kiwanis International, and Ms. Loo Ai Choo, Past President of KDSF-NC. The final day, 29 November, took the team to Semenyih Eco Venture Resort for strategic planning and team-building activities for 2025. It was a great opportunity for collaboration and reflection, setting a positive tone for the year ahead as we work together towards providing more meaningful impact.



HARI MALAYSIA/HARI MERDEKA

On 12 September 2024, KDSFNC celebrated both Hari Malaysia/Hari Merdeka Day and Angie's farewell with a lively event. The day began with a Merdeka Parade, where everyone wore traditional attire. The children then participated in a fashion show, showcasing their outfits and posing for photos. The celebration continued with a Malaysian Food Tasting session, where children and their parents enjoyed a variety of local dishes, including kerepek, kuih-muih, and fruits.



HAPPY RETIREMENT, MS ANGIE HENG

In addition to the festivities, we took a moment to honor Angie on her official last day. Teachers, students, parents, KCKL members, and KDSF Management Committee members gathered to celebrate her contributions and bid her farewell. Thank you, Angie, for 20 years of dedicated service!



HAPPY DEEPAVALI

We celebrated Deepavali on 24 October 2024 with a vibrant event that began with storytelling about the festival's significance. The children eagerly listened as the story unfolded, learning about traditions like kolam and the light ceremony, offering a rich cultural experience. Following the story, they enjoyed four interactive stations: making chapati, applying beautiful henna, crafting colorful decorations, and tasting delicious treats like murukku, vadei, and chicken samosas.



KIWANIS DELEGATE VISITS

On 10 September 2024, five Kiwanis India delegates, joined by KCKL members, Rosie Sa and Loo Ai Choo, and others, visited the center. Syimma led the tour, and the President made a small donation to support the center's efforts.



On 20 December 2025, the Governor of KC Taiwan and nine members visited, with Mr. Hwang of KCKL delivering a speech on KDSF's history. They also made a small donation to KDSFNC.

KDSFNC GRADUATION DAY

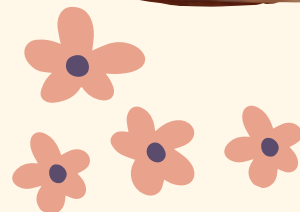


The KDSF-NC Graduation Day on 16 November 2024 was a truly heartfelt and significant occasion. With the support of KCKL members and KDSF Management Committee members, including Ms. Loo Ai Choo, Ms Jocelyn Lim, and Mr. Lee Kuan Yong, we gathered to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the 16 students from the Class of 2024. Surrounded by about 150 family and friends, this event was not just a reflection of academic milestones, but a celebration of the students' growth, dedication, and resilience.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the teachers and therapists for their tireless dedication to the students' development. A special thank you goes to PSG for their generous sponsorship and for preparing the delicious food, which contributed to making the event a joyful and memorable celebration of our students' hard work and accomplishments.



DO YOU KNOW?



Milestone	Range for Children with Down syndrome	Typical Range
GROSS MOTOR		
Sits Alone	6 – 30 months	5 – 9 months
Crawls	8 – 22 months	6 – 12 months
Stands	1 – 3.25 years	8 – 17 months
Walks Alone	1 – 4 years	9 – 18 months
LANGUAGE		
First Word	1 – 4 years	1 – 3 years
Two-Word Phrases	2 – 7.5 years	15 – 32 months
SOCIAL / SELF-HELP		
Responsive Smile	1.5 – 5 months	1 – 3 months
Finger Feeds	10 – 24 months	7 – 14 months
Drinks From Cup Unassisted	12 – 32 months	9 – 17 months
Uses Spoon	13 – 39 months	12 – 20 months
Bowel Control	2 – 7 years	16 – 42 months
Dresses Self Unassisted	3.5 – 8.5 years	3.25 – 5 years

Raisa's Amazing Ride

The Fun, Surprising, and Life-Changing Journey of Raising My Little Girl

By Mummy Rose Zaimi

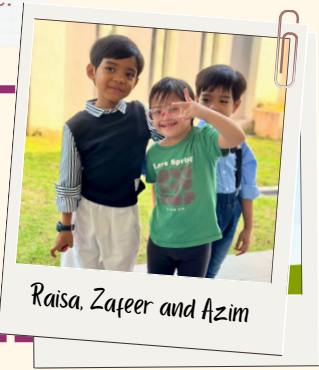
The moment Raisa was born, I knew things were about to get interesting! As our fourth child, she had big shoes to fill, but she wasted no time filling our hearts with so much love and a fair bit of chaos. From the start, I had this feeling that her journey was going to be something truly extraordinary.

Raisa joined the KDSF family at two months old, and it honestly felt like God's perfect timing—our house is just down the road from the centre! It felt like everything had come together exactly as it was meant to. I was learning new parenting skills while juggling virtual therapy sessions and online school for three other kids. Trying to get Raisa to follow the therapist's instructions over Zoom was like a sport—lots of enthusiasm, but little cooperation. With plenty of humour and incredible therapists, we made it work!



By her third birthday, after a year of consistent speech therapy at Klinik Audiologi dan Pertuturan, HUKM, and WQPARK, Raisa was talking up a storm! And not just with a few words—she's full of personality! She's strong-willed, expressive, and honestly, I couldn't be prouder of how far she's come.

Today, Raisa's in SRP1, and she's totally in charge! Whether she's asking for a snack or having a little sibling debate, she's running the show, all while flashing that mischievous, sweet face. With her awesome teachers and therapists by her side, she's all set up for success. Every day with Raisa is an adventure, and there are no limits—just possibilities. And honestly, her challenges make our victories that much sweeter.



Looking back on the past five years, I'm beyond grateful for my husband, my daughters and my son, who've showered Raisa with unconditional love and support. A huge thank you to our family who's embraced Raisa just as she is—your support means the world! Big thanks to the teachers, therapists, and the Kiwanis community for all they've done, too.

And of course, Raisa—she's taught me to dream bigger, laugh louder, and love deeper than I ever imagined. Here's to Raisa, who turned our world upside down in the best way possible. Can't wait to see what's next!

KDSF-JB x PSG JB

GATHERING & SHARING SESSION

This session, held on 20 July 2024, featured two alumni parents and two parents of current KDSF-JB students as panelists. They shared valuable experiences with the attending parents, focusing on the future pathways of these special children after completing secondary school, as well as career opportunities aligned with their interests and abilities. The session was well-received, with over 30 parents in attendance.



SPORTS AND FAMILY DAY CUM MERDEKA CELEBRATION

For the second time, we celebrated Sports and Family Day at Starhill Country Club on 7 September 2024. This year, the event was extra special as we included a Merdeka parade in celebration of National Day.

With almost 200 children and adults in attendance, the day was filled with excitement as a variety of sports events and games were organized for KDSF-JB students and their families. The joy was evident on everyone's faces throughout the activities. After the sports events, attendees enjoyed free activities, including a refreshing swim at the theme park.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

This CSR project by KPMG PLT Johor Bahru marked their first collaboration with the KDSF-JB Centre. Held on 14 October 2024, the event brought together 30 volunteers who shared their time and experiences with 30 of our students. A range of engaging activities, including music and movement, games, and arts and crafts, were planned to create a fun and interactive experience.

The program concluded with a generous donation to the KDSF-JB Centre in the form of benches and gym balls for daily use. Additionally, each attending student received a goodie bag as a souvenir, making the event even more memorable.

Following this, on 25 October 2024, the Kiwanis Clubs of Chung Mei and Tai Chung, Taiwan visited the KDSF-JB Centre to celebrate Children's Day and support Down Syndrome Awareness Month. A total of 40 delegates attended the event, where 18 students from the SAP and SRP groups performed a special dance to welcome the guests. As part of their support, the delegation also presented a donation of RM8,400 to the center, further contributing to the well-being of the students.



BRIGHTEN UP THE JOURNEY

A group of medical students representing the Teddy Bear Hospital at Monash Clinical School Johor Bahru/Monash University organized a program titled 'Visitation Day: Brighten Up the Journey' with KDSF-JB students. The event, held at the KDSF-JB Centre on 30 August 2024, aimed to raise awareness about children with Down syndrome while fostering empathy among medical students. Various activities, including art and craft and interactive games, were conducted to engage the children. A total of 20 students from Monash University and 20 KDSF-JB students participated in this meaningful event.



30 YEARS WITH KDSFJB

♥ - TEACHER HANIZA ISA - ♥



On January 10, 1995, I began my journey as a teacher's assistant at KDSF-JB, then located on Jalan Abdul Samad. That day marked the start of my career in teaching special needs children. Alongside teachers who had already been serving there for four years since the centre's opening in Johor Bahru, I learned a great deal—especially from the parents of the students. At just 21 years old, I was exposed to knowledge and experiences I had never encountered before, shaping me into the person I am today.

Ms. Ping, Teacher Sally, and Ms. Gowri were among the individuals who became close friends when I first started working. I learned a lot from headteacher Ms. Ping, who guided me in effective teaching methods and approaches for children with special needs.

She also gave me opportunities and space to try new things, such as planning dances and performances for the students, which we organized to promote our centre at various locations. She fully trusted me to create and illustrate children's storybooks for story time, and I was also the first teacher to propose creating worksheets for students who were ready to write—an idea that is still used today.

"I aspire to continue dedicating myself to serving the students and their families for as long as my strength and expertise are needed."



Additionally, I was trained to handle babies with Down Syndrome under the guidance of a physiotherapist from Sultanah Aminah Hospital. This invaluable experience deepened my understanding of child development and milestones. I also began attending various courses that expanded my theoretical and practical knowledge of teaching children with special needs.

After three years of working, I embarked on a new chapter in my life as a wife. A special reception dinner was held with KDSF-JB's committee members, teachers, parents, and children. I felt incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful people who celebrated our marriage. Their blessings and prayers have stayed with us to this day.



In 1997, our centre moved to Jalan Yahya Awal, where we continued to grow, welcoming new teachers, students, and parents. Over the years, many students graduated and continued their education in special education classes at mainstream schools. I was actively involved in organizing various programs such as charity sales and buddy walks, which not only enriched my experience but also strengthened my engagement with the community. These events helped me connect with people from all walks of life, regardless of their status or abilities.



Ten years later, we moved to Majidee Park. Thanks to the dedication of Kiwanis members from the Kiwanis Club of Johor Bahru, funds were successfully raised to build our own centre. Although the transition was challenging, we overcame every obstacle with the help of parents, Kiwanians, and teachers. Our new, more comfortable learning environment provided dedicated spaces that allowed for a more structured and organized teaching approach. We were also able to introduce new skills, such as baking classes for Group 1 (SAP) and Group 2 (SRP).

At the end of 2019, Ms. Ping retired, and the responsibility of managing the centre was placed on my shoulders. It was a significant challenge, and initially, I was unsure if I could handle it. However, with the trust of the management committee and the unwavering support of my fellow teachers, I did my best to lead the centre in accordance with the established framework.

A greater challenge arrived when the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. As teachers, we worked tirelessly to ensure that classes continued online, staying connected with students and their parents, monitoring their progress, and addressing any issues that arose during remote learning. Once the pandemic ended, it became a chapter in our history—a period of resilience and adaptation. Schools reopened, students returned, and daily routines resumed.



"Today, I have been a Kiwanis teacher at KDSF-JB for 30 years. I have experienced the joys, challenges, and triumphs of this journey. I have learned, and I continue to learn, from everyone around me."

Today, I have been a Kiwanis teacher at KDSF-JB for 30 years. I have experienced the joys, challenges, and triumphs of this journey. I have learned, and I continue to learn, from everyone around me. To my fellow teachers—both those who have worked alongside me in the past and those who are still with me today—I truly appreciate each and every one of you. You have stood by me through both difficult and joyful times. To the parents, you have taught me patience, understanding, and the importance of collaboration in planning for your children's future.

I aspire to continue dedicating myself to serving the students and their families for as long as my strength and expertise are needed.

WELCOMING KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT & MAMA KIWANIS

Kiwanis International President 2024-2025, Mr. Lee Kuan Yong, along with Mama Kiwanis, Puan Sri Dato' Hajah Khir Johari, visited the center on 28 October 2024. To welcome these distinguished guests, 18 students from the JADE and PEARL groups performed several dances. As part of the visit, the President contributed RM5,000 to the center, further supporting its initiatives.



KDSFTB GRADUATION DAY

On this historic day, we proudly celebrated the achievements of our students, beginning with the Graduation Ceremony. A total of 12 graduates received their certificates for completing the Early Intervention Program at the center. While some will continue their education in special education classes at government schools, others will remain with us in the School Age Program for the upcoming year.

The celebration continued as we honored five school leavers who successfully completed the three-year School Age Program. The event reached its joyful conclusion with vibrant concert performances by each class, filling the room with pride and excitement.

Held on 23 November at New York Hotel, the celebration brought together 178 attendees, making it a truly special and memorable occasion for everyone present.



ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION WITH KDSF-KLANG

AUDIOLOGY CHECK

On 14 October 2024, Ms. Nur Aisyah Nadjwa, a Master's student from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), conducted research at the center on "Investigating Middle Ear Function and its Effects on Real-Ear-To-Coupler Difference (RECD) Measurement Among Children with Down Syndrome (DS)." This study provided valuable insights into the children's hearing levels, leading to recommendations for further treatment for eight students, ultimately benefiting their overall well-being.



ENRICHING VISITATIONS

November was a month of valuable exchanges at our center, as we welcomed visitors who shared their insights and ideas on education and support for children with Down Syndrome.



On 4 November 2024, Ms. Nur Maisarah and three students from UiTM Puncak Perdana Campus visited the center to conduct an interview on "Educational Application for Disabilities Users." The discussion provided an opportunity to share our expertise in early intervention and special education, contributing to their study on developing effective educational tools.

On 12 November 2024, we had the privilege of hosting Benazeer Baiq and Ms. Aiman from the Kiwanis Club of Bangalore, India. Their visit was an enriching experience as they engaged in discussions with our team, exchanging ideas on best practices, current challenges, and solutions in supporting children with Down Syndrome.

Both visits highlighted the importance of knowledge-sharing and partnerships in advancing education and care for children with special needs. We look forward to more collaborations that drive positive impact for our community.

EXPLORING DANCE SEQUENCES FOR GROWTH

Ms. Mak Foong Ming from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) is conducting a research study titled "The Development and Effectiveness of Contemporary Dance Sequences on Gross Motor and Living Skills Among Children with Down Syndrome in Malaysia." This study will take place at the center for at least 10 weeks, running daily from September to December. The research aims to explore how contemporary dance sequences can enhance the gross motor and daily living skills of children with Down Syndrome, contributing valuable insights to the field of special education and therapy.



KDSF KLANG GRADUATION DAY



On 8 December 2024, the 30th Graduation & School Celebration was held at the Royal Klang Club, bringing together 120 attendees, including children, parents, siblings, KCK members, guests, and teachers.

The event commenced with the graduating children proudly marching into the hall, followed by the Recitation of Doa and the National Anthem. KDSF Chairman Mr. Gary Wong then delivered a warm welcome speech, followed by addresses from Dato' Setia Pekerti Di Raja, Dato' George Stewart LaBrooy and Administrator Ardinson Yusof. A heartfelt tribute video, In Loving Memory of Our Belated Patron, To' Puan Janet La Brooy, was also presented, honoring her lasting legacy.



The highlight of the ceremony was the certificate presentation by Mr. Gary Wong, marking a proud milestone for the graduates. This was followed by a joyful cake-cutting and photography session, capturing cherished memories of the special day. The celebration continued with a special award presentation recognizing outstanding children for their achievements.



Adding to the excitement, the audience was treated to the much-anticipated school concert, Cultural Melodic Medley, followed by the lively Happy Feet Dance led by Ms. Mak Foong Ming. The fun carried on with engaging activities such as Passing the Parcel, Musical Chairs for children and siblings, Parent Games, and KCK Members' Games.

The event concluded with a special feast, celebrating three decades of dedication and impact at KDSF Klang. Each attendee left with presents and door gifts, making it a truly unforgettable celebration of achievements, unity, and joy.



KDSF MELAKA SOCIAL SKILLS EVENTS

IPD TRAFFIC MELAKA VISIT

On 22 July 2024, KDSF Melaka welcomed IPD Traffic Melaka Tengah for an engaging visit, offering students insights into traffic police roles while enhancing their social skills. The session included an introduction, hands-on exposure to police vehicles, uniforms, and equipment, followed by a group photography session. The visit concluded with light refreshments, fostering further interaction between students, teachers, and officers.



MEMORIAL KEMERDEKAAN VISIT

On 8 August 2024, in conjunction with Independence Day, KDSF Melaka organized a visit to the Memorial Kemerdekaan Melaka to enhance social skills and provide students with an educational experience about Malaysia's independence history. The visit included a sharing session led by the teacher, followed by a music and movement activity, allowing students to interact and express themselves creatively.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

On 29 August 2024, KDSF Melaka celebrated Malaysia's Independence Day with a vibrant event aimed at fostering national pride among students. The activities included a group photo, singing of the national and state anthems, a lively parade with enthusiastic student participation, and a patriotic fashion show where students showcased their creative outfits. The event concluded with prize presentations, celebrating the students' creativity and participation.



EVENT WITH MONTESSORI PRIMER KINDERGARTEN

On 30 October 2024, KDSF Melaka hosted the Montessori Primer Kindergarten event, focusing on enhancing social skills and promoting awareness among the students. The event gathered Primer Kindergarten teachers, parents, students, as well as KDSF management, teachers, and staff. Activities included music and movement sessions, aimed at encouraging creative expression and coordination, as well as gross motor activities that supported physical development. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to come together, fostering an environment of learning, social interaction, and fun.



BANANA LEAF CHARITY LUNCH FUNDRAISER

On 7 December 2024, KDSF Melaka organized a Banana Leaf Charity Lunch to raise funds in support of its programs and initiatives. The event brought together KDSF management, teachers, and admin staff, along with volunteers from UiTM Bandar, who generously contributed their time and effort. Through this initiative, participants not only enjoyed a meaningful fundraising experience but also fostered community spirit and support for a good cause. KDSF Melaka successfully raised approximately RM25,000 through this event.



DSAM NIGHT WALK

On 18 October 2024, KDSF Melaka participated in the Down Syndrome Awareness Month (DSAM) Night Walk at Banda Hilir, Melaka, to raise public awareness about Down Syndrome and highlight KDSF's role in supporting parents of children with Down Syndrome.

The event featured interactive Q&A sessions with the public, fostering greater understanding and inclusivity. Adding to the excitement, KDSF Melaka arranged for trishaw rides around Melaka town for students and their families, creating a memorable experience. The event was further sweetened by a generous vendor who provided free cendol, making the night even more enjoyable for all participants.



CSR COLLABORATION WITH AXIATA & KYS

On 19 November 2024, KDSF Melaka hosted a CSR event in collaboration with Axiata and Kolej Yayasan Saad (KYS), fostering teamwork and social engagement while enriching students' learning experiences. Nearly 40 participants took part in the event, which began with a briefing by Mdm Theresa, followed by a gotong-royong session. Volunteers contributed by painting murals and installing wooden blinds, enhancing the center's environment. The event concluded with a light refreshment session, allowing everyone to relax and interact.



A GUIDE TO SUPPORT & CARE FOR DOWN SYNDROME



EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Programs such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and development interventions are crucial for children

"I enrolled my daughter in an early intervention program when she was just a few months old. The progress she's made in speech therapy has been remarkable. It's amazing to see her communication skills develop every day."

"Managing my son's thyroid condition has been challenging, but with the right medication and regular check-ups, we've been able to keep it under control. It's crucial to stay proactive about his health needs."



MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

Regular medical checkups are essential to monitor and address any health issues promptly



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Adapted learning materials, inclusive classrooms and individualised education plans are as essential for educational support.

"Finding the right school for my daughter was a priority for us. The inclusive environment and supportive teachers have made a tremendous difference in her academic and social development."

Adaptive technology and assistive devices enhance the quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome by addressing communication, learning, mobility, sensory, and daily living challenges, empowering them to live more independently and inclusively.



ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Adaptive technology and assistive devices significantly improve the quality of life for people with down syndrome



LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION

Lifestyle modification can enhance the overall well-being of individuals with down syndrome

"We've incorporated yoga into our son's routine, and it's been beneficial for his overall health and relaxation. It's a great way for him to stay active and improve his flexibility."



YOU CAN HELP!



The Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation is a non-profit organisation with tax-exempt status. It manages four educational centres for children with Down syndrome in Malaysia – Petaling Jaya, Johor Bahru, Klang, and Melaka. These centres require more than RM1.9 million a year to operate.

If you would like to help us in the form of a donation, you can visit our [website](#) or fill in the Donation Slip.

Name: (Mr. / Mdm. / Ms.) _____

IC Number: _____ Company & Reg. No.: _____

Address: _____

Amount donated: _____ Cheque/Money order No.: _____

You can make a donation to your chosen center by scanning the QR code.



National Centre



Johor Bahru Centre



Klang Centre



Melaka Centre

Note: Tax Exempt receipts will be issued for donations.

Cheques are to be made payable to *Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation*.



JUST RM20 MONTHLY!

From as low as RM20 a month you can now **support** the education of the students of **Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation**.

As a non-profit organization, our work in providing education for children with Down Syndrome depends on the generosity of the public, friends, parents, companies, and foundations in Malaysia.

Your regular contribution is a direct investment in the future of our students.

HOW?


Monthly donation via your **credit card** can be made to the centre of your choice – either KDSF National Centre; KDSF Klang; KDSF Melaka; and/or KDSF Johor Bahru.

HOW MUCH?





You may choose to contribute an amount ranging from **RM20; RM30; RM50; or RM100 per month.**



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

Whatsapp us on  **+603 78868820** or email us at donationnc@kdsf.org.my to register and participate.

NOTE:

-  All donations are tax-exempt. Please provide your name as stated on your NRIC, your NRIC number, and your home or work address, as required by LHDN.
-  Automatic transfers will be made from your credit card every month.
-  You may change your donation, ie. increase or stop the monthly donation at any time.
-  A single tax-exempt receipt will be issued during the month of February, under the name and address provided in the Registration Form, for your total annual donation.

