

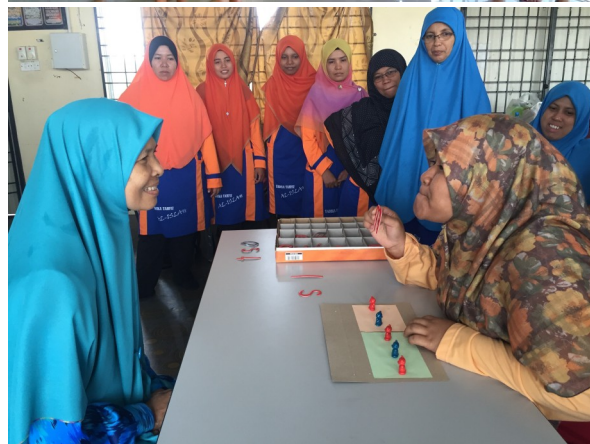


# ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

## OUR MISSION:

To support the right of Children with Special Needs to:

- Early Diagnosis
- Early Intervention
- Family Centred Services
- Inclusion in Mainstream Education
- Learn the necessary skills to lead a full life in the community



### ***Message From President: Dato' Dr. Sharom Ahmat***

I am pleased to present BOLD's Annual Review for 2016 and hope our friends and supporters will find this brief survey of our work informative.

BOLD's activities in 2016 have been an interesting mix - maintaining regular services for Children with Special Needs (CSN) and their families on the one hand and exploring new directions of outreach work on the other.

Throughout the year, we ran 7 intervention programs on a regular basis, serving more than 450 CSN of different ages with different types of needs. 4 programs are shared with our partner, Asia Community Service (ACS). Most of the programs are conducted at one of our Activity Centres; 3 located on the island and the 4th on the mainland. But, just as important, we also bring awareness, knowledge and skills to families and teachers of CSN who are not able to come to our Activity Centres.

In 2015 and 2016, we conducted short training courses in Best Practice Methods for teaching Early Literacy to 150 pre-school teachers from 53 non-profit kindergartens. Based on teaching methods and materials developed and tested in our Focus on Literacy program, the objective of this outreach program is to help disadvantaged young children, from poorer or rural areas of Penang who are learning to read, by upgrading the knowledge and skills of their teachers.

Another of BOLD's pioneering outreach projects is a set of 5 illustrated children's books entitled "We are Friends". Written especially for very young children and set in a Malaysian context, the books will be published in 4 languages (Malay, Chinese, Tamil and English). The books, intended to sensitize young children to accept, befriend and assist classmates who may have special needs, will fill a gap in educational resources and is part of BOLD's ongoing commitment to spearhead effective Inclusion of CSN in mainstream school settings.

The BOLD EXCO is very appreciative of our small core of highly committed and dedicated staff. We try to inspire them and upgrade their skills through in house training and sponsorship to workshops. BOLD and ACS together sent one of the largest contingents to the 6th National Early Childhood Intervention Conference in November 2016. The three-day biennial NECIC offers an exceptional learning experience as it brings in leading international experts as well as practitioners from different states in Malaysia.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every one of our sponsors and donors. It is your support that has enabled BOLD to carry on its work from year to year to benefit CSN and their families. We look forward to your continuing support and hope you will help to bring new friends and donors for BOLD.

### ***COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016***

**President:** *Dato' Dr. Sharom Ahmat*

**Vice President:** *Ms Lim Kah Cheng*

**Honorary Secretary:** *Ms Khor Ai Na*

**Assistant Secretary:** *Ms Ivy Loo*

**Honorary Treasurer:** *Ms Yep Beng Hong*

**Members:** *Ms Chia Kien Eng*

*Dr. Hamima Dona Mustafa*

*Ms Irene Teoh*

*Ms Poh Heem Heem*

*Ms Shirley Koay*

**Honorary Executive Director:** *Dr. Tan Liok Ee*

#### ***The distinctive features of our programs are:-***

- involving and empowering families
- using research based, best practice intervention strategies
- constant upgrading of knowledge and skills
- off-site outreach
- emphasizing inclusive education to build an inclusive society for persons with different needs and abilities

### FIRST STEP EARLY INTERVENTION

An Early Intervention Program for Children with Developmental Disorders/ Delays from birth to 4-5 years. This is a joint program with our partner organization, Asia Community Service (ACS). In 2016, a total of **121** children benefitted from this program; **59** at First Step Early Intervention Centre in Gelugor and **62** at Pusat BOLD-ACS in Seberang Jaya. **26** children from both centres “graduated” from the program in a simple celebration organized by parents in December. First Step Seberang Jaya center conducted a 3 week Holiday Program during the long year end holidays to help families sustain their children’s growth and development over the long year-end holidays.



### PLAY GROUP & SOCIAL GROUP

**31** children benefitted from these two intervention programs for 3-5 and 6-9 year olds with social and communication difficulties, respectively. Weekly sessions incorporate a range of different activities through which children learn to follow instructions, play with peers, take turns, express themselves, focus and stay on task.



### FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

This support group, facilitated by Ms Shirley Koay, continued in 2016 in response to requests from parents who feel the stresses and difficulties of parenting a child with special needs. In 2016, a total of 6 sessions were conducted between April and November with an average attendance of 5 parents per session. This small core group of committed parents came together to debrief and learn from each other by sharing the challenges they faced but also the sweet moments they enjoyed with their children. The issue all parents felt especially frustrated about was the difficulty in finding a kindergarten or school that accepted their child in the full spirit of inclusion.



## FOCUS ON LITERACY (FOL)

FOL targets 5-8 year olds with difficulties in learning to read. BOLD has developed specialized teaching materials in Malay, Chinese and Tamil and trains team members to use effective teaching strategies to help children with reading difficulties achieve a functional reading level in at least one language. In 2016, the program benefitted a total of **69** children in year round teaching sessions at our two centres and continuous effort by SJKT Sungai Ara. In addition, **44** children attended our year end 3 week Holiday Literacy Camp. In a special extension of FOL, we conducted 4 training workshops for **107** teachers and parents to upgrade their skills in “Best Practice Teaching for Early Literacy”.

## FOL SESSIONS AT BOLD & SJKT SUNGAI ARA

Photos of FOL sessions at BOLD centres (right) and SJKT Sungai Ara (below).



## KEM MEMBACA

**“Anak saya sudah boleh menyebut perkataan selepas 3 hari berada di dalam kem ini”.**

**(Ibu seorang peserta kanak-kanak Kem Membaca).**







**“Sekarang saya lebih faham tentang masalah pembelajaran di kalangan kanak-kanak. Strategi yang diajar juga adalah praktikal bagi saya di Tadika”.**

***Oleh seorang peserta guru yang menyertai kursus latihan oleh BOLD.***



## TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, TALKS

Spreading awareness, outreach, upgrading of knowledge and skills is an important part of BOLD's work. In 2016, this included 4 training workshops to 107 teachers and parents, 3 workshops for in-house training, sponsoring staff and team members to 7 workshops to learn from others and 3 outreach talks at different educational institutions.

## JOM TOY LIBRARY

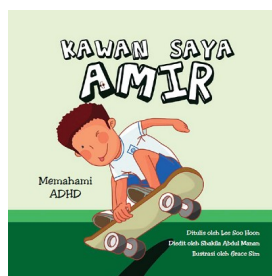
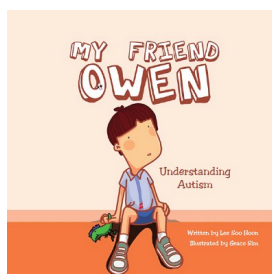
JOM, a joint program with ACS, is a mobile toy library that visits rehabilitation centers in rural areas of Penang, bringing the importance and pleasures of learning through play to 137 persons with severe disabilities. Last year, JOM made visits to PDKs' Paya Keladi, Pinang Tunggal, Orang Pekak, Sungai Batu, Kuala Juru and Yee Ran Jing Sheh, a home for persons with severe disabilities.

## RESPITE CARE

A joint initiative with ACS, this service allows parents to take a break from the stresses and strains of caring for Children with Disabilities. In 2016, two holiday programs were offered: from 31 May to 2 June and 5 to 7 December, serving a total of 27 families.

## INCLUSION & WE ARE FRIENDS

INCLUSION is a joint BOLD-ACS program that works in multi-faceted ways to support and promote the inclusion of Children with Special Needs in mainstream settings. The past two years our special focus is on producing a set of 5 children's books, in 3 languages. Entitled "We are Friends", the series is intended to sensitize young children to accept, befriend and assist classmates with special needs. Three books in this series have been pilot-tested through 26 story telling sessions in 7 pre-schools and 1 primary school. In addition, inclusion support for Children with Special Needs continued through 63 visits to 10 pre-schools and 3 primary schools, providing teachers and parents with consultations, sharing of resources and classroom management strategies.





### Volunteer's Appreciation Day

At the beginning of the year, an appreciation lunch was organized to thank all volunteers, staff and members.



### World Play Day

Every year, ACS and BOLD join in this world-wide celebration of play. In 2016, more than 100 children and their families took part in a joyous half day of fun and games at Montessori Nursery Centre.



### Intel-BOLD Family Day

A half day event organized by Intel to celebrate BOLD children and their loved ones. Children and their families had fun time visiting Intel and joining exciting programs planned for the day.



### Kids Yoga Workshop

An internal training for staff, volunteers and members at Echo Yoga Centre in Raja Uda, Butterworth.



### Storytelling Sessions

A total of 9 storytelling sessions was conducted in Bahasa Malaysia and Mandarin throughout the year. Thank you to all our dedicated storytellers!



### NECIC 6th Conference

A contingent of 17 persons from BOLD and ACS attended this biennial three day conference which gathered together more than 500 people from Malaysia and beyond. Leading international and local practitioners of Early Childhood Intervention came to share their experiences and strategies.



**ACTIVITY CENTRES & CONTACT NOS.****Pusat BOLD-PSDC:**

81, Cangkat Minden Jalan  
5, 11700 Gelugor, Penang.  
(04-659 8611)

**First Step Early  
Intervention:**

227, Jalan Pemancar, 11700  
Gelugor, Penang.  
(04-658 5396)

**Pusat BOLD-ACS:**

1, Lorong Sutera Prima 4,  
Taman Sutera Prima, 13700  
Seberang Jaya, Penang.  
(04-398 4358)

**Rumah Pemancar:**

227A, Jalan Pemancar, 11700  
Gelugor, Penang.  
(04-658 7857)

**BOLD ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, PENANG**

[boldspecial@gmail.com](mailto:boldspecial@gmail.com)

<http://www.boldspecial.org>

**FB: BOLD for Special Needs Children, Penang**  
**BOLD Focus on Literacy**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

As a non-profit NGO, our charges for services are nominal and in some cases totally free. We depend entirely on sponsorship, donations and various sources of funding to sustain our programs and improve our services.

Donations can be made Cash or Cheque (payable to BOLD Association for Children with Special Needs, Penang) or direct bank-in to: **CIMB 8003946993**.

ALL DONATIONS TO BOLD ARE TAX EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 44 (6) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT 1967.



Pusat BOLD-PSDC, Gelugor




Pusat BOLD-ACS, Seberang Jaya



First Step Early Intervention,  
Gelugor



Rumah Pemancar, Gelugor



*Terima Kasih*

To Our Sponsors & Donors 2016

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Southern Rubber Works Sdn Bhd  
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YB Puan Chong Eng, EXCO

YB Professor Dr. P Ramasamy A/L Palanisamy, Deputy Chief Minister II

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In Memory of Cheong Chee Weng  
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Wong Nyit Seen

