

# EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

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by

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Children with special needs are brought to Amar Seva Sangam Centre for Special Education after age six only. This results in below par rehabilitation when compared to what the children can achieve had they been brought to the Sangam much earlier. Lack of Early Intervention Program and Facilities are the reasons for such delayed Parental/ Family response.

The birth of a child is an exciting, life-changing event. A beautiful new baby comes to your house, family, and neighborhood. It is a time for celebration. Family members look at the new child and wonder: Will he be a football star, will she be a famous musician, will he discover the cure for cancer, will she become President of India?

*But what happens when this new child has a disability?* What if there are health problems? What if, as time goes by, it seems as if the child isn't learning and progressing as quickly or easily as other children? In fact, there are *many supports available* for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities, Services for very young children, from birth to the 5th birthday (and sometimes beyond), are called Early Intervention. Early intervention is an effective way to help children catch up or address specific developmental concerns as soon as possible in their lives. Sometimes babies are born with a condition or special need that affects their development. Other times a condition is not apparent at birth, but over time parents and doctors begin to wonder if the child is developing appropriately. Early Childhood Intervention means finding specific ways to help a child become as functional as possible.



To begin, a child's developmental abilities are evaluated. Once evaluated, the child can receive the appropriate therapy - or other type of early intervention - he or she needs. The education of children with disabilities is a top national priority. Our nation's special education law, the Right to Education Act, (RTE) sets high standards for their achievement and guides how special help and services are made available in schools to address their individual needs. More than 6 million children with disabilities receive special education and related services in our schools each year.

## Our Specific Objectives:

1. Creating awareness among the community and service delivering stakeholders about importance of early identification and rehabilitation interventions.
2. Identifying new born & below six age group children with developmental delays in 5 blocks around Amar Seva Sangam.
3. Strengthening existing Village Based Rehabilitation program with early identification and interventional service through capacity building and professional support services in 5 blocks.

The Early intervention resource centre in Amar Seva Sangam premise to provide training and resource support to the Community Based Rehabilitation project team and parents and extend direct early interventional rehabilitation service to the children in neighboring villages.

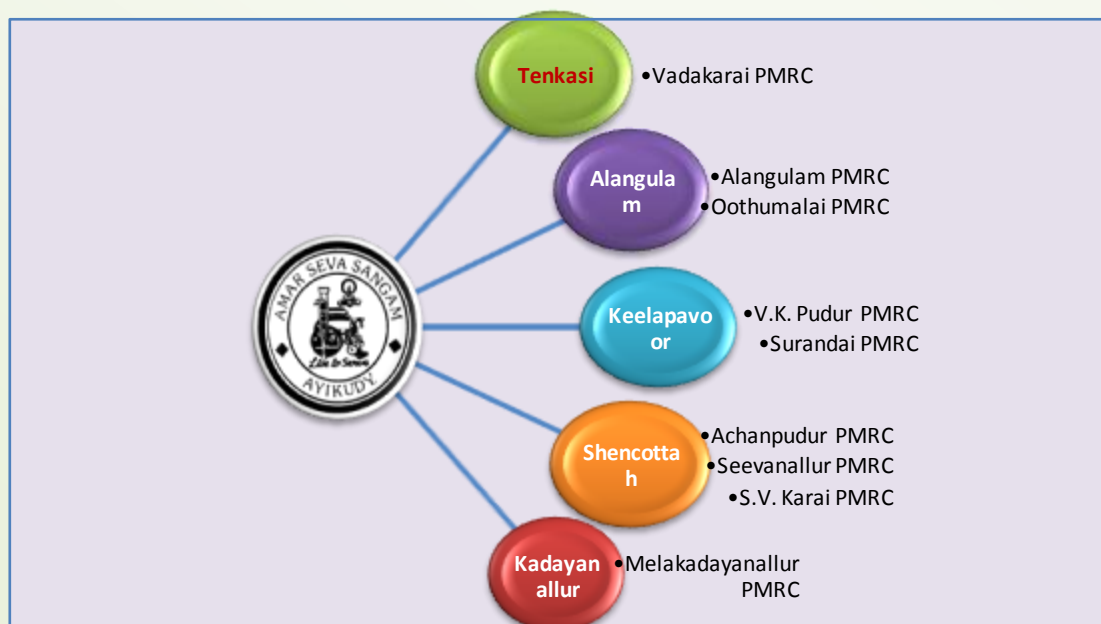
## About the beneficiaries:

- ▼ Our EI project is working directly around 200 children and their family members. (It is estimated that 25 more new children will be added every year and this number will be balanced with the children who dropped from the program after successful intervention)
- ▼ Besides, 60% women in the target villages will be indirectly benefited through awareness and prevention activities.
- ▼ Capacity of 296 ICDS workers, 16 ANMs will be trained on early identification work.
- ▼ 164 Vazhndhukattuvom Thittam (VKT) workers will be trained on the specific skills.

## The Program and its implementation:

### Area of coverage:

Sl. No.	Name of the states	Name of the districts	Name of the blocks/ talukas	# of villages to be covered	Population to be covered
1	Tamilnadu	Tirunelveli	Tenkasi Alankulum Keelapavoor Shencottah Kadayanallur	85 Village bodies, 13 Town Bodies & 3 Municipalities	200 children with delayed developments in 0-5 age group



## Operational Strategy

1. A main Resource centre is established in Amar Seva Sangam campus
2. Sub-centers are functioning in far off areas
3. Operational Field areas are divided into three for Home based support; one around ASSA and two around Sub-centers.
4. Core Resource personnel at ASSA and para support personnel at sub-centers
5. Resource personnel will be shared on a predetermined schedule.

## Approach

### Family-Centered:

- **Amar Seva Sangam's is supporting parents** in meeting their responsibilities to nurture and enhance their children's development. Early intervention services may be delivered in a variety of ways and in different places. Sometimes services are provided in the child's home with the family receiving additional training. Services may also be provided in other settings, such as a clinic, a neighborhood daycare center, hospital, or the local health department. To the maximum extent appropriate, the services are provided in natural environments or settings. **Natural environments**, broadly speaking, are where the child lives, learns, and plays.



### Coordinated Services:

- **Ensuring early intervention services** are coordinated with the full array of early childhood, health and mental health, educational, social, and other community-based services needed by and provided to children and their families.

### Measurable Outcomes for Children & Families:

- **Enhancing child development and functional outcomes and improve family life** through delivery of effective, outcome-based high quality early intervention services.

### Early Intervention & the Medical Home:

- **Ensuring early intervention services complement the child's medical home** by involving primary and specialty health care providers in supporting family participation in early intervention services.

### Local Control, Fiscal Reform, & Programmatic Accountability:

- **Assuring equity of access, quality, consistency, and accountability in the service system** by ensuring clear lines of public supervision, responsibility, and authority for the provision of early intervention services to eligible children and their families.