

## She Shines Like a Star!

Being the older child Richa (name changed) is pampered like a queen. Born on a rainy day, her parents were filled with joy with a homecoming of a sweet baby girl. Her parents loved her a lot, especially her father was very fond of her and believed that she was special in every way until the time that they got to know that their little angel was actually a child with special needs.

The family learned about that Richa has hearing loss after six months from her birth came as a huge blow to the family. When she was evaluated by the doctor they also got to know that she had cortical vision loss as well. Learning about the dual disability, while Richa's family reacted negatively, her father decided to raise her with the best possible means.

In 2017, Sense India's team came to know about Richa. When we first met her, she lacked concentration, her receptive skills were poor, was a quiet shy girl and was easily distracted. Richa then started coming to the centre regularly and was provided special education services.

In this years there has been a tremendous improvement in her condition. She is now partially independent in her daily activities and through speech and communication training is now able to communicate verbally. She enjoys arts and crafts activity at the centre a lot and is currently studying in grade 10. Her educator says, "English is her favourite subject in school. *Richa enjoys sharing about her peers, her daily experiences and she never fails to share them with me. Richa and I have now become like friends and I believe she will achieve all her goals*".

When we asked Richa what are her aspirations, she says, "*I want to become an English teacher. My teacher and father have full faith in my capabilities. My father has been my guiding support in everything and through his support, I'll be able to fulfil my dreams*".



***Richa with her Special Educator at the centre***