



## Your child CAN achieve!

Parenting a twenty-first century child is quite challenging. It is obvious that becoming a parent by itself does not qualify a person to be a good parent. Yet it is true that no formal or informal training is given, and most parents have to learn the hard way.

The problem is further compounded if the child is found to have “*special needs*” and is unable to keep up with routine academics or progress in mainstream education. The discovery of the special needs of a child is confusing, long, and filled with much emotional turmoil. When you found your child is unable to progress as expected by society and school, you may have put all your focus on him, prayed ardently, visited holy places, tried out various doctors, therapists and healers to bring him back to “normalcy.” If nothing worked, then the strenuous journey of finding a new path began. If your acceptance of the limitation of your child is high, then you have taken a positive step ahead. You are ready to take your child forward, and it is heartening to know that with fast development of technology, your child will be able to overcome many limitations that were not easy earlier.

*If you do not accept reality and keep searching for a “miracle cure”, you are not doing justice either to yourself or to your child. You are wasting precious time, and your child cannot wait. What you can do for him today, you cannot do when he grows up. And what you can do today a quite a lot .....*

Though it is important that professionals, teachers and parents work together, it is equally important to understand your own emotions, aspirations and ambitions. If you as a parent find that your life has been rudely shaken up, hopes dashed, and your personal desires stifled, shake out of it. Today’s special child has far greater opportunities than just a few years ago.

**BE PROACTIVE:** What you need to do is to become proactive, look at the “abilities” of your child, not his limitations, and channelize him in the direction where he can blossom out. There is no child who does not have abilities – it is up to us to discover what they are, and to guide the child accordingly. Intelligence is no longer restricted to IQ. A child with emotional intelligence, kinesthetic (bodily) abilities, musical or spatial skills, or creativity, has a very good chance of making a living for himself. All he needs is proper identification of his abilities – and then encouragement and guidance. It also involves patience,

because results may be slow initially, and you may also need to try out various alternatives before you hit upon the right one.

**NEW ERA:** We are lucky to have entered in an era where education opportunities for “slow learners” and challenged children have multiplied manifold. A whole new world of Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills has opened out, and your child can be a pioneer in it. Look beyond curriculum, grades, private tuition, or traditional vocations. One day you will be able to look back and feel proud how you have helped your child grow into a wonderful human being. Do not follow the herd mentality and try to make your child perform only in academics, or become an engineer etc. In this generation there is money and stability in any vocation that the child is good at. If he picks up one skill and keeps developing on it, he will not only be able to stand on his own feet, but will be a very happy and fulfilled professional too.

**YOUR OWN SELF:** Having said all the above, I would like to take you into another very important issue you need to deal with. Remember that you can spread joy to your child only if you are happy deep within. If you are neglecting yourself and spending all your physical and mental energy on the betterment of your child, you are not doing the right thing. You need to feel positive, bring down your stress levels, be happy with the way your life is going, have occasions of leisure, entertainment and self-satisfaction. If you balance your life that way you will be creating a very good future for the whole family.

**YOU** play a very significant role in helping your child find his destiny. **Just do it.**

If I can be of help in any way, remember that I am just a phone call away .....

**GOOD LUCK!** **Dr. Ali Khwaja**, Chairman, **Banjara Academy**

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