

**Title:** School for parents of Disabled Children.

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**Organization:** Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development (RICD)

**Back ground:** RICD under the control of Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health. RICD provides services for Children who have delayed development, mental retardation and behavioral problems. RICD services 17 provinces of the north. These include Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Lumphun, Lumpang, Payao, Prae, Nan, Uttaradit, Pitsanulok, Petchaboon, Pichit, Sukhothai, Kumpangpet, Uthaitani, Nakornsawan, Tak, Mae Hong Son. Due to the large number of disabled children in 17 provinces and some provinces are far from RICD ,we provide School for parents of disabled children in order to give the best services for disabled children which is related with RICD Moto "Help children and their families to help themselves."

**Purpose:** Disabled children can live happily in there family.

**Duration:** 1 October 2003 – 30 September 2004

### **Activities**

#### **For Parents**

1. Education : give knowledge about the disease and how to improve the prognosis of their children.
2. Developmental Training Course : give knowledge and skills for take care of their children at home.
3. Occupational Training : give to mothers to allow them to earn some income by producing various products and handicrafts at home thus enabling them to care for their children.
4. Home Program : Given by multidisciplinary teams to take care of their children at home.

#### **For disabled child**



Autistic	35	9	44	58	61	43	97.72
Cerebral Palsy	16	11	27	58	64	25	92.59
DD	15	11	26	44	45	23	88.46
Epilepsy	8	5	13	57	93	11	84.62
Down's	7	5	12	60	64	12	100
MR	4	5	9	98	84	8	88.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>93.89</b>
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Average interval of follow up assessment is 4.92 mo (SD = 2.99 mo)

### **Problem**

1. Due to the large number of disabled children who attend at RICD it is extremely difficult to provide regular follow up of therapy / home program.
2. The parents are very busy so cannot always carry out therapy with their children.
3. Due to financial constraints, many parents must work to support their families therefore it can be very difficult for them to find the time and money to bring their children to RICD for therapy.

### **Solutions**

1. RICD provides part time staff for provide regular follow up of therapy / home programs.
2. - We integrate child development program in to primary health care system.
  - Home visit for follow up cases and give counselling.
  - Health education to increase public awareness of mental health and child development problems.
3. Parents receive financial support via donations from NGO's to cover transport expenses is also available.

(Note: The treatment at RICD is free of charge under Thai government policy.)