
‘CHILD DEVELOPMENT AIDE’ TRAINING PROGRAM

UMMEED CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

All of us who work with children know how crucial the early years are for a child’s development. The children require a secure, stimulating, safe environment in those vital first years - an environment which allows them to acquire and practice walking, talking, play and problem solving skills.

And you’ve seen that most children seem to manage it all without apparent effort - because the human brain is hard-wired to do so.

But for some children, it’s not so easy.

Children with developmental disabilities have a harder time seeking out the experiences they need to grow as they should. An intellectual impairment, a physical disability or a sensory handicap can get in the way of children exploring and discovering the world and their learning slows down dramatically.

Children growing up in slums, orphanages and very low-income families - simply because of their deprived backgrounds and limited interactions with attentive adults - are also at risk for developing disabilities.

Ummeed Child Development Center, one of India’s premier non-profit organizations, works with children who have developmental disabilities. In addition to providing direct services in assessment and therapy, Ummeed’s eminent team of child development specialists offers training in a range of disciplines.

One of its most innovative programs is the six-month certificate course for Child Development Aides (CDA).

ROLE OF A CDA

CDAs are community workers who will work with children in various settings including *anganwadis*, orphanages, schools and CBR programs. By the end of the six month course, CDAs will be capable of:

- promoting normal child development
- educating the community about prevention of disability
- identifying children at risk for or having developmental disabilities

- carrying out simple interventions through structured play, educational activities and therapy to address the developmental needs of children

COURSE STRUCTURE:

- Five month theoretical and practical training at Ummeed, including two days per week at partner organizations, working with children and families under supervision doing supervised practical training.
- One month internship at Ummeed and partner organization
- Six-month post-course mentorship program for ongoing education, peer support and professional review meetings

FACULTY:

The faculty at Ummeed consists of a team of experts including developmental pediatricians, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, special educators and counselors with several years of clinical and teaching experience. Please visit our website at www.ummeed.org for more details of the organization and its staff.

ENTRY REQUIREMENT:

Ummeed is looking for organizations who are interested in building their own resources. The organization will have to support the trainee (paying his/her salary) for the six month period at Ummeed, and commit to supporting the trainee post the training period. This will include sensitizing other staff members to issues around child development and disability

Admission Requirements for the trainee:

- Class Ten graduate
- Fluent in spoken and written Hindi
- Preference will be given to a parents of children with disabilities and/or community workers working with children from underprivileged backgrounds

Ummeed is currently considering applications from qualified prospective students for the next session beginning August 2010. Ten candidates will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The last date for applications will be 15th June 2010.

CERTIFICATION:

Candidates on successful completion of the course will be given a certificate of completion by Ummeed Child Development Center.

“With the Ummeed course, we found that our staff returned with a deep understanding (for the most part) of child development and its many variations. The activity-based, problem-solving approach to learning means they know what they know from the inside out. We are watching them now as they apply their skills to the wide range of situations our school and EIC presents. They observe carefully and then THINK. It’s a joy to see. I recommend the course highly to all my colleagues in the field. It’s an investment to be sure, but one well worth making.”

Jo McGowan Chopra
Executive Director
Latika Roy Foundation (Karuna Vihar)
Dehradun

Those interested can contact:

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