



... for children with **Specific Learning Difficulties**

Special Attention Project (SAP)

SAP envisions that all children with Specific Learning Difficulties in Ghana are included in mainstream education.

We spread information on learning difficulties; advocate for learning support for children with learning difficulties in mainstream schools; undertake research and training on Specific Learning Difficulties; provide practical support for out-of-school children with learning difficulties; and develop learning solutions to address the educational needs of children with learning difficulties.

Peter Agyei (Age 10, Class 4):

"I know I have a learning problem. I can't read and write, and do exercises that my age mates can do. It makes me sad and my teachers too are not giving me any extra support. Sometimes, I feel like I cannot become the doctor that I want to be in future."



Annual Report 2017

Children with learning difficulties learn better when they are given individualised education, which aligns instruction with learning needs and abilities of children.

Thematic Area: Behaviour Change Communication

Objective: Increased Community Understanding about Children with Specific Learning Difficulties

With major changes ahead in Ghana's education policy on inclusiveness, it has never been more important to empower parents with information and enable them be effective advocates for their children. Adequate information on learning difficulties also helps parents to provide the right support for their children and helps promote positive attitudes and behaviour change towards children with learning difficulties. SAP spreads information on learning difficulties with the aim of achieving the above objectives.

In 2017, SAP reached out to thousands of citizens through face-to-face and group interactions, media, website, newsletter, sharing of information materials and social media campaigns.



We sensitised close to 2,000 parents on learning difficulties in 26 schools. The face-to-face sessions were conducted during Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) meetings. Sessions equipped parents with how they could recognise symptoms of learning difficulties and the practical measures that parents could take to help children with learning difficulties to be able to learn better.

We reached thousands of people with information on learning difficulties through the media and social media platforms.



We organised an Open Day to engage the general public on learning difficulties and the activities of SAP. Dubbed "Join Voices with Children with Learning Difficulties", the event attracted parents, educators and partner organisations. Participants were encouraged to become ambassadors of SAP by spreading information on learning difficulties, facilitating partnerships for SAP and supporting SAP's work to make a difference in the lives of children with learning difficulties.

Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ www.sapghana.com

What is Dyscalculia? Dyscalculia affects development of skills in numbers and mathematics.

If your child has difficulties in mathematics but is intelligent, can see and hear well, has been going to school like other children, and has no problems in reading, then he or she may have Dyscalculia.

Imagine

Living with Dyscalculia

$8 + 13 = 12$
 $12 - 3 = 10$
 $19 + 1 = 110$

Anything wrong?

For someone with Dyscalculia these answers may be perfectly correct. 8 plus 1 plus 3 makes 12, isn't it? And counting back three steps from 12 lands you at 10 (12-11-10). And is 9 plus 1 not 10? Imagine counting your money if you have Dyscalculia...



Thematic Area: Inclusive Interventions

Objective: Enhanced Capacity of Basic Schools to Internalise Systems and Mechanisms that Provide Learning Solutions for Children with Specific Learning Difficulties.

SAP carries out inclusive interventions for in-school children with learning difficulties to help avert dropout. Some of these interventions include homework support and special vacation classes for in-school children with learning problems. SAP equips teachers and educators with resources and strategies and develops learning solutions to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties in regular schools. Through SAP's Educational Centre at Kaneshie, out-of-school children with learning difficulties receive individualised education and practical support with the aim of preparing and reintegrating them in mainstream education.

Vacation Classes

We initiated special vacation classes for in-school children with learning difficulties in August. Over 50 children benefitted from the 6-week vacation classes. The children were assessed and given individualised education according to their learning needs to help them improve their areas of learning difficulties. Majority of the children who participated in the vacation classes had reading problems. SAP teachers used FonixGH to help the children to be able to read better. The children were taught the letter sounds (phonics) and used them to spell and pronounce words. 30% improved learner outcomes was achieved.



Homework Support

We offered homework help classes to in-school children with learning difficulties. This was to help children with learning difficulties who are at risk of dropping out to be able to learn better.

Training of Teachers

We conducted training on learning difficulties and the use of phonics reading methodology for teachers. We equipped the teachers to recognise signs of learning difficulties in children and teaching strategies they can employ to help the children learn better.





Children's Support Programme

We reached out and provided direct services to out-of-school children on the streets with learning difficulties. We assessed the children and aligned teaching and learning with each child's strengths and needs. Pre-vocational lessons were part of the learning to explore the children's interests and talents. The children were given free facilities for bathing and washing, as well as breakfast and lunch. Five children were reintegrated with their families.

Training of Databank Foundation Volunteers

We partnered the Databank Foundation to conduct training for 25 volunteers involved in the Foundation's Read Aid Literacy Programme. We trained the volunteers on how to recognise signs of learning difficulties and how to use the phonics reading method to teach children. The Read Aid initiative is a literacy programme by the Databank Foundation targeted at public schools in Ghana, and is aimed at contributing to improved learning outcomes at the basic level through reading.



FonixGH

FonixGH started to make impact in 2017 when children in SAP's vacation classes improved their reading skills with the method. FonixGH teaches to read through phonics (letter sounds) and Akan vocabulary. Children learn to systematically 'attack' a word and blend the sounds to pronounce it. They practice this skill with words that are familiar to them. An outreach to schools in Kumasi, Koforidua and Takoradi demonstrated interest in the methodology.

FonixGH
Learning to Read through Phonics and Everyday Words

Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ www.sapghana.com

What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia affects development of reading skills.

If your child has difficulties in reading but

- * is intelligent,
 - * can see and hear well, and
 - * has been going to school like other children
- then he or she may have Dyslexia.

Imagine

Living with Dyslexia

Read the following sentence:

.sɔnɛtɔz zɪt bɔɪ tɔ tɪʃɪtɪb tɪ bɪt I

Now, copy this sentence on a piece of paper (write from right to left).

How much effort and concentration did it take?

Imagine you would need this same amount of effort for everyday reading and writing, and still often get it wrong. That's Dyslexia.



Other Events in 2017

Out-of-School Children Visit Accents & Arts

Four children in SAP's programme visited Accents & Arts (A&A) Limited, a Ghanaian furniture company in Accra using metal and wrought irons to make artistic designs. The visit offered the children the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the activities of the company. It was both educative and entertaining for the children as they had a practical feel of what A&A workers do. The children engaged in sandpaper work - smoothing and polishing metals.



SAP Participates in National Philanthropy Forum

SAP participated in the 2nd National Philanthropy Forum and Excellence Awards in Accra held in March. The two-day summit was under the theme "Philanthropists as Agents for National Development". Organised by the Philanthropy Forum-Ghana, the forum brought together participants from the nonprofit, government and corporate sectors to discuss ways of improving the nonprofit sector. It provided an opportunity for SAP to network, learn and exchange ideas with other organisations.

Team Study Day on Impact Expansion

SAP has a new Impact Expansion plan. This plan outlines the new direction SAP wants to take in efforts at broadening its impact on the lives of many children with learning difficulties. The plan looks at how SAP can reach more in-school children with learning difficulties who risk dropping out; how SAP can work more closely and effectively with parents/caregivers of children with learning difficulties; as well how SAP can improve its data collection and its general programmes. Because it's a new plan, the SAP Team needed to familiarise themselves with the plan. And 21st July was the day Team SAP decided to set aside to study and discuss in details this new Impact Expansion. Rufus Green Park, Accra was the venue.



ICGC Youth Group Beautifies SAP's Centre

The Revolution Group of ICGC Christ Temple, Omega Youth Generation in August extended a helping hand to SAP when the group painted the organisation's premises free of charge. Sharon Engmann, Assistant Group Leader said the initiative was under the group's project title: "Project Brighten My World," and seeks to "make SAP's educational centre more conducive and serene for learning". We thank the group for this kind gesture.

Christmas Party for Out-of-School Children

It was all excitement as the children in SAP's programme participated in the annual Christmas party, an event the children always excitedly look forward to. The 2017 edition was again held at the Lakeside Marina Park at Ashaley Botchway, Accra with lots of fun. Boat riding on the lake, canopy ride, horse riding, sliding tower, seesaw and tennis ball were few activities that featured in the annual party.



Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ www.sapghana.com

Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) find it difficult to pay attention, to concentrate and to finish tasks.

If your Child ***cannot sustain attention for long and/or *is over-active,**

cannot regulate his or her behaviour well, often does not finish tasks, shows these problems for a long time, shows these problems both at home and in school while other children of the same age behave differently, then he or she may have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Imagine Living with Hyperactivity

Recall: that great football match that your team won.
Or that party where you had the time of your life.
Remember the excitement? The energy you had?



Imagine you always feel like that. Full of energy, moving, talking and laughing.

How would life be? Could you sit quietly for long?



Imagine Living with Attention Deficit

Stop reading. Close your eyes. What do you hear? What are the sounds from your environment? Imagine these sounds are much louder and they all need your attention. Would you be able to concentrate on any task?

Look at your screen. What do you see?



A blot, a scratch, an icon that you never really noticed before? How about anything or anybody moving beyond your screen? Imagine that every time you look at your screen you need to give attention to all these details.

Would you be able to focus on anything?



Call for Action: Speak Up!

Join SAP's action and add your voice towards the **full implementation of Ghana's Inclusive Education Policy**. The policy will help meet the needs of all children with Special Educational Needs including children with learning difficulties.

SAP's Board of Advisors in 2017

- Mr. Hamidu Sulemana, Chairman
- Mr. Eugene Aihoon
- Mr. Bukari Mahammed
- Mrs. Josephine-Naana Baiden-Agyarko
- Mr. Bernard Boaheng
- Ms Alice Awuah
- Ms Margaretha Ubels
- Mr. Richard O. Opoku

We express our sincere appreciation to our cherished partners for their unflinching support and commitment in making a difference in the lives of children with learning difficulties. We are also very proud to be associated with all our corporate and individual donors. We say 'A very Big Thank You' to you all for your sustained commitment! A Special Thanks to the Management and Security Department of Kaneshie Market for their continued support and cooperation for the Children's Centre.

Our Partners in 2017



Our Individual Donors contributed greatly to our success in 2017:

Thank You Georgina! Thank You Elizabeth! Thank You Alexa! Thank You Varinder! Thank You Hugo! Thank You Dr. Ben! Thank You Emmanuel! Thank You Collins! Thank You Samuel! Thank You Pastor Isaac! Thank You Eric! Thank You Rockson! Thank You Wilfred! Thank You Salome! Thank You Lamtig!

Our Media Partners in 2017



Support SAP's "Road to Education Campaign":
Mobile wallet: 054-4700505
A/C: 0130084468290801, Special Attention Project,
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Help Children with Learning Difficulties

Road to Education Campaign

For:
 Out-of-school children with learning problems

To:
 Steer them away from the streets into education

Target:
 Ghc 50,000.00

By:
 You and others

Donate Mobile: 054-4700505

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Special Attention Project
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www.sapghana.com www.fundraisingafrica.com/DetailView/419

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