





August 2011

Issue No. 37

heep hong express



## **Children Training Fund Facilitates Social Adaptation**

Dining out and grocery shopping are relaxing and enjoyable activities for most families, not to mention watching movies, playing on the beach or cycling. But for autistic children, like Ching and Cheuk-yin, and their parents, all these outings could be full of difficulties, struggles and sufferings.

I hing feared hair scissors and dryers. She was also afraid of the feeling that her head was being pressed by a hairdresser's hands. As a result she squirmed restlessly, screaming and struggling to take her mum out of the salon. It ended up that her mum had to perform the cut while she's sleeping. Dining out in a restaurant was not easy for Ching as well as she could

not sit still. She always stormed out of the restaurant or made a scene when she got caught by her mum.

Ching's mum recalled, "Once we went on a trip to the Gold Coast in Tuen Mun. When the bus was on the way, she caught a glimpse of the sea and started yelling and struggling. I escorted her to the beach. She still frequently glanced in the direction of the exit when we were playing in the sand."

As her husband is working across the border, she has to take care of her daughter on her own. Feeling stressed, she avoided taking Ching out. There were some activities she was eager to join but the idea was abandoned in view of the problematic behviours of Ching.

Parents of Cheuk-yin, 4 years old, were also in the same predicament. On one weekend, they went to Tai Mei Tuk for

■:香港九龍大坑東村東裕樓地下一號 GI, Tung Yu House, Tai Hang Tung Estate, Kowloon, Hong Kong









Through training at centre, Cheuk-yin and his parents regain their joy of family outings



▼ After training, children performed calmly during dental treatments



cycling. When they were about to hire the bikes, Cheuk-yin got hysterical, arousing gossips and unfriendly attention from passers-by. Failing to pacify the child, the family had to return home disappointedly.

"Once we went for swimming. He struggled to leave when spotting a waterfall shower at the entrance, and escaped swiftly when I was changing my swimming suit," Cheuk-yin's mum added.

### **Cognitive, Emotional & Behavioral Problems Hinder Social Adaptation**

Ms Eva Mak, Educational Psychologist of Heep Hong Society, said, "Most children with special needs have problems in sensory registration and modulation, being either under-sensitive or over-sensitive to sensory stimulation. They could not grasp the underlying meanings of each experience. Coupled with their lack of generalisation power, they always encounter difficulties in social adaptation activities."

She remarked, "Some children are not aware of socially acceptable behaviours, or have difficulties in processing everyday sensations, leading to emotional and behavioural problems. All these problems leave them hard to use community amenities, and cause misunderstandings and rejection on the part of the general public. As a result, their parents might take them out less often. Other parents might also oppose their children making friends with their special needs counterparts, lest they might be adversely affected."

## Providing Systematic Training and Practice Opportunities

Heep Hong Society is committed to enhancing the social adaptation abilities of children with special needs through training in the hope that they could get used to community environment, and establish proper mode of cognition and behaviours. Social adaptation training is divided into three modules: first is basic skill training in classrooms, followed by simulating activities to increase children's successful experience. Finally, they will be shepherded to the community for real practice.

In recent years, Heep Hong received sponsorships from the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Pfizer Nutrition, Grand Hyatt of Hong Kong, Wellcome, Genting Hong Kong and Love Ideas Love HK Programme to conduct diversified social adaptation training at centres. It also joined hands with partners in the community to provide practice opportunities such as having

haircuts in salons, eating in fast-food restaurants, shopping in supermarkets, and taking public transport. All these training activities have been applauded by parents.

#### **Parents and Dentists Lauded the Results**

Taking movie watching as an example. Before training, it was difficult for parents of Yu Ming Centre to go to the cinema with their children. One-fourth of them had never watched a movie with their children. After training, nearly 60% parents expressed that their children were able to queue up for tickets and stay calm throughout the screening. Over 80% of the parents learned more about the needs of their children and acquired the skills to tackle their behvioural and emotional problems. Both their motivation to take children out and the parent-child relationship have been forged.

Even for activities as challenging as seeing dentists, after carefully orchestrated exercises and practices at centres, many autistic children went through the dental treatments at clinics in an exceptionally calm and helpful manner. The medical staff was amazed at their performances, and one dentist was so impressed that he even cut the fee by half to show his encouragement.

Cheuk-yin's mum said, "After training at the centre, his response in next outing was less strong, and we could enjoy our family days more often now." Ching's mum also commented, "Thanks to the haircut activities organised by the centre, my daughter got a new and pleasing hairstyle now."

### **Children Training Fund to Extend Social Adaptation Training**

The training aforementioned is non-government-funded, and entirely relies on sponsorships and donations from the public. Heep Hong Society is seeking to establish the Children Training Fund in an effort to enable 12,000 children with special needs and their families to participate in social adaptation activities; or 2,000 children with autism waiting for government services to undergo 3-month speech therapy; or 600 underprivileged children with developmental problems to receive 10 sessions of professional training.

We cordially invite you to make donations to the Children Training Fund. Every dollar of the money raised will be used to create more training opportunities for this neglected group of children. For details, please visit www.heephong.org/children-training-fund.



Dannen Chan quitted his full time job to take care of his autistic son. He is pleased with his decision for it allows him to have a close tie with the child.

# "I cherish every moment with my son!"

66 Rex's every progress, big or small, can loosen my tense nerves and make me smile.

n 2007 when Dannen Chan heard that his 2 years' old son Rex was diagnosed with autism, his mind went blank instantly. He could not believe what he was told. Although the child often screamed and yelled when seeing a doctor, he behaved exceptionally well during the assessment. The only "little flaw" in his performance might be about following instructions. Yet at that time he thought Rex was just like "catching a cold" and thus his performance was slightly affected. Later, Dannen took Rex to consult other doctors and they all told him that the child "does not look like having autism". Despite being skeptical of Rex's situation, he spared no effort to arrange various therapies for his son hoping that the "cold" could be cured. Yet after a couple of months, the boy still could not speak a single word nor communicate with others. Dannen came to realise that he should arrange appropriate treatments for his son as soon as possible. At that time, the three and a half year old child could only utter two syllables - "Dad Dad".

Dannen feels that there is a special bond between him and his son. He is often concerned about his needs and is eager to take care of him himself. As a result he quitted his full time job as a computer programmer to which he had worked for more than a decade. In the daytime, he attends to Rex's daily needs from going to school, doing homework to taking training courses. Dannen said happily, "We have bonded together and just could not be separated from each another!"

Dannen works as a part-time computer programmer for four nights each week and deliverer for a fast food restaurant on the other three nights. He also volunteers at Rex's training centre two days each week. With such a busy schedule, no wonder he falls asleep almost instantly when going to bed. Yet he only sleeps four hours a day.

In no more than four years, Rex has improved remarkably from pronouncing only a few syllables to now chatting with

dad, suggesting where to play, and so forth. Sometimes, he even advised his parents to calm down when they have a hot debate! Dannen shared happily, "During his first summer vacation, Rex could already speak simple sentences. Although his articulation was a bit awkward like a westerner speaking Cantonese, to me he has already taken a great leap forward!" Rex is going to study

in an ordinary primary school this September. Witnessing his child's every little progress achieved, Dannen is overjoyed!

During daytime Dannen spends most of his time with Rex. His curious neighbours often cast a dubious look at him wondering what he does for a living. Dannen does not mind what others think. He said happily, "Although my income was cut down by half when I guitted from the full-time job, I think it is worthwhile. Otherwise, I would not be able to spend much time with my son and we could not be so intimate!" Dannen said with a smile of contentment.



Watching over his son's every step, witnessing his every progress, Dannen's contentment is just inexpressible!

#### Father's Club

Father's Club aims at providing an opportunity for fathers who have children with special needs to share experiences and reduce pressure. Membership is free of charge. For details, please contact Heep Hong's Hoi Fu Centre at (852) 2777 5588.

Charity listed on WiseGIVING 惠施·慈善機構

► Group training improved children's sensory processing ability, organisational skills and powers of concentration

## **▼** Children with ADHD are characterised by a persistent pattern of hyperactive, impulsive and inattentive behaviours

## Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

About 6% of local students suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). They are characterised by a persistent pattern of hyperactive, impulsive and inattentive behaviours, encountering difficulties in social and other daily activities. Studies revealed that the absence of attention, emotion-processing abilities and social-communication skills are merely symptoms, the core of the problems lies in the impairment of their executive function, leading to difficulties in behavioural inhibition, language and nonlanguage working memory, self-regulation of emotion and awareness, and self-management.

have no clue why teachers dislike me! The English teacher often pulls me up in class. Frankly, I don't know what she's teaching. To pay attention in class is very difficult for me as the lesson is so boring. I tend to act on impulse. For example, when it flashes into my mind that there is an interesting thing in the drawer, I can't resist checking it out. When the image of the ball pen I bought yesterday looming up in my mind, I was also tempted to take it out and have a look. Once I was rebuked for inattentiveness by the teacher in front of all my classmates. It really embarrassed and agitated me! " a 10-year-old student with ADHD said.

ADHD children of predominantly inattentive type are easily distracted and very often overlook details. They dodge doing time-consuming or painstaking tasks, and struggle for adherence to instructions and listening to others. They are also characterised by forgetfulness and lack of organisation and planning. Their counterparts of the predominantly hyperactive-impulsive type tend to talk excessively, interrupt others' speech or disturb others. They fail to sit quietly when required and are constantly in motion, having difficulty in taking turns. Such children are largely beset by problems in learning, social and other areas.

A 5-year study on 150 local adolescents with ADHD and a control group of 171 boys was conducted by the Department of Psychiatry, the University of Hong Kong, between 1998 and 2003. Compared with the controls, the externalising disturbances (such as rebellious and violent behaviors) and internalising disturbances (such as anxiety and depression) of adolescents with ADHD were 4 and 1.5 times more common respectively. They were more likely to smoke cigarettes, commit thefts, and use illicit drugs.

Their averaged intelligence level was 103, but more than one fourth of them repeated grades. Some foreign literature also pointed out the importance of early intervention to alleviate the profound negative impacts of the disorder.

Sponsored by the Quality Education Fund, Heep Hong Society operated a 2-year pilot scheme entitled "Holistic School-based Support Programme for Students with ADHD" in 4 primary schools in 2009. Under the Programme, a three-tier support model comprised of classroom management, executive function training, behavioural consultancy and parenting skills was executed and a teaching package was produced by professionals of Heep Hong. The package is comprised of the Teacher Manual with a CD-ROM and the Parent Guidebook to offer practical tips on classroom management, parent-children communication and training activities.

Ms Gemini Cheung, an Educational Psychologist of the Programme, said, "The key to bring up children with ADHD lies in good communication skills. Parents are advised to perceive things from the perspective of their children, making sense of their facial expressions and change of emotions, and giving timely responses to let children know that their feelings are being understood. Try not to point out their mistakes until they're pacified."

"Too many obstacles, too less recognition" is the feelings of most children with ADHD and the reason of their unusually low self-esteem. Gemini remarked, "To avoid compounding the problems, parents should always give them a pat on the back to enhance their self-esteem and self-confidence. By altering the consequences of certain behaviours, parents can also help their children develop proper behaviours," she continued.

More practical tips on helping children with ADHD can be found in the newly published Holistic School-based Support Programme for Students with ADHD (Parent Guidebook). Monthly donors who wish to receive a complimentary copy of the book can send an email with their name, contact number, and donor number to cdd@heephong.org. Limited Chinese copies only. First come, first served.



▲ Professional tips available in the newly published Parent Guidebook and Teacher Manual

#### Guide to Children Development

► Exercises to strengthen extra-ocular muscles



▼ Hopping in the direction of arrows to improve eye-tracking ability



▲ Look at the screen. How many spots are there?

## Postural-ocular Coordination Enhances Learning Performances

Charles has difficulties in tracking with eyes, such as reading and copying information from blackboards, and has distaste for visual activities, such as drawing and playing tangrams. His muscle tone is low and he wears out easily. The 8-year-old boy has poor postural control, and always slumps while sitting. He frequently falls and tumbles; and does not have a clear sense of direction. He is also weak in ball games. Charles' mother thinks all these are attributed to his absentmindedness, laziness and impatience. The underlying cause, in fact, is postural-ocular motor disorder.

ostural-ocular motor disorder refers to the loss of control of posture in conjunction with poor eye tracking despite the fact that one's eyesight is normal. How does postural control affect the functional use of vision? Ms Peggy To, an Occupational Therapist of Heep Hong Society, said, "To receive visual information, we need to stabilise our body and this relies on the normal functioning of the vestibular system, which maintains the muscle tone in a steady state and the good posture of our head and body as well as motor coordination. In other words, the vestibular system and the visual system are closely integrated in neurology. The former forms the backbone of the latter; and any dysfunction of the vestibular system could lead to poor functional use of extra-ocular muscles."

Extra-ocular muscles are the six muscles that control the lateral, vertical, diagonal, circular and other movements of an eye. About 70%-80% activities in class, such as reading, copying information from blackboards, playing ball games, require effective extra-ocular control, so do most daily activities, like crossing roads, dressing, playing chess. Peggy remarked, "At the age of five, children could perform eye-tracking quite well when the position of their head is stabilised. If children exhibit signs of postural-ocular motor disorder after five, professional

assessment and training are indicated as they would not grow out of the symptoms automatically. In the long run, their learning, self-care and other performances would be affected; and the snowballing frustration would undermine their self-confidence."

Heep Hong provided group training on postural-ocular motor coordination. Devised and conducted by experienced occupational therapists, the course covers vestibular rotation activities, movement-based ocular muscle training, eye-hand coordination training, extra-ocular muscle training, copying, computer-based training and so forth to strengthen extra-ocular muscles and postural control. It can also help improve learning performances, such as elevating the accuracy and speed of reading and copying, and improving visual memory, visual discrimination and eye-motor coordination. Very positive feedback was received from participants of the course.

As part of home training, parents could also arrange activities for children: hitting balloons, throwing and catching soft objects like cushions (start with big objects, followed by small objects; and start with short distance, followed by long distance), playing chess, spotting the differences, drawing mazes, connecting pictures outlined with figures and assembling models according to illustrations as part of efforts to enhance their eye-tracking, scanning and eye-hand coordination.



▲ Postural-ocular training makes learning full of fun

#### Sponsorship & Fundraising Events

▼ Island Shangri-La and 30 other corporate partners awarded "Caring Company" logo





▲ Children presented a souvenir to Chairperson of Shanghai Fraternity Association Hong Kong (second left)



▲ Thumbs up to all the great chefs whose signature dishes were highly commended by the gourmets!

## Corporate Partners Awarded "Caring Company" Logo

Nominated by Heep Hong Society, the following 31 corporations and organisations were conferred the "Caring Company" logo for the year 2010-11 by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in recognition of their contribution towards helping children with special needs:

- 3R
- CITIC Bank International Limited
- Citrus Growers International
- · Delicious Chef King Catering Limited
- Gap International Sourcing (Holdings) Limited
- Gateway Hotel
- Goldman Sachs (Asia) L.L.C.
- Good Hope Singers Limited
- Grand Hyatt Hong Kong
- Hang Seng Bank
- Harbour Plaza Metropolis
- Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Co., Limited
- Hongkong Land
- Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong
- Kai Shing Management Service Limited New Town Plaza Phase One
- Kai Shing Management Service Limited New Town Plaza Phase Three
- Kai Shing Management Service Limited Metropolis Plaza
- King Fung (Environmental Protection) Limited
- The Kowloon Hotel
- KWIK Education International Limited
- MSIG Insurance (Hong Kong) Limited
- PCCW Limited
- Phoelia (Far East) Co. Limited
- Prince Jewellery & Watch Company
- Rotary Club of Hong Kong
- Rotary Club of The Peak
- Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
- Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited
- Weber Shandwick
- Witgent International Enterprise Company Limited
- Yahoo! Hong Kong Limited

▼ Volunteers of Standard Chartered Bank beautified the exterior walls



## Participation of Corporate Volunteers in Centre Activities

A total of 40 enthusiastic staff members from the Corporate Real Estate Services Department of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited beautified the exterior walls of the West Wing of Wan Tsui Centre on 7 April 2011. Shanghai Commercial Bank sponsored a Father's Day fun fair at Hoi Fu Parents Resource Centre and mobilised over 40 staff volunteers to set up booths for the event. Volunteers from Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong, visited children at Wan Tsui Centre on 28 June 2011.

## The 20<sup>th</sup> Great Chefs of Hong Kong and 2011 Grand Raffle a Howling Success

The 20<sup>th</sup> Great Chefs of Hong Kong was successfully held on 2 June 2011 at Grand Hyatt Hong Kong. The Guest of Honour, the Honourable Mrs Rita Fan, Member of the Standing Committee, National People's Congress of PRC, joined over 1,100 guests in enjoying the finest cuisine served by 50 leading hotels, restaurants, and beverage suppliers. Winners of "Grand Raffle 2011" were also drawn at the event. Net proceeds from the events will be used to support services at Parents Resource Centres.

Special thanks go to Mrs Lucina Ho, Prince Jewellery & Watch Company, and Grand Hyatt Hong Kong for their generous sponsorship. We are also grateful for the enthusiastic support from Heep Hong Ambassador Ms Kay Tse, participating hotels, restaurants and beverage suppliers, patrons who bought tickets, and volunteers who helped sell raffle tickets.

## Coast-to-Coast Walk across England in Support of Heep Hong

Ms Kim Murphy, Chair of the Great Chefs Working Group, initiated a Coast-to-Coast Walk of 320 km across England with her family in July. Fund raised is used to support Heep Hong's Children Training Fund.

## Facilities Sponsored for Wan Tsui Centre (West Wing)

Wan Tsui Centre (West Wing) was sponsored by: Shanghai Fraternity Association for the establishment of a Training Activity Room and a Gross Motor Room, and acquisition of training equipment; Rotary Club of the Peak for the setting up of a Sensory Integration Room; the Sunnyside Club for the installation of an Adventure Land; and Lo Ka-chow & Lo Fong Shiu Po Memorial Foundation Limited for the fitting out of two Speech Therapy Rooms and sponsoring the Support Programme for Autistic Children on Hong Kong Island.

#### **Placement of Donation Collection Boxes in Malls**

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Thanks to the support of the Chinese Estates Group and Sun Hung Kai Real Estates, donation collection boxes are now placed at the customer services counters of The ONE and Silvercord in Tsim Sha Tshui, Windsor House in Causeway Bay, East Point City, Metroplaza, Tsuen Wan Plaza and Grand Century Place. All donations raised will be for helping children with special needs and their families.

#### **Three Heep Hong Projects Won Votes**

Three projects out of the six proposals submitted to the Love Ideas Love HK programme for public voting succeeded and received sponsorship of HK\$320,000 for the benefit of over 1,000 families of children with special needs. Profuse thanks for your support!

#### Corporate Partners

► Rock-climbing wall in the **Musical Movement and Play** Therapy Room facilitates motor coordination training of children

▼ Manulife volunteers painted murals on the walls of a centre



▲ Mr Michael Huddart, Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, of Manulife (International) Limited (second left) with Heep Hong children at Adventure Land

## **Laying Solid Foundation for Children Development -Manulife Charitable Foundation**

"The smiling faces of children are the major driving force behind our support for Heep Hong Society," Mr Michael Huddart, Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong, of Manulife (International) Limited said.

Since 2007, Manulife has gone to great lengths to support children with special needs, including its sponsorship of sensory integration rooms, a musical movement and play therapy room, and an adventure land. Their staff also enthusiastically participated in voluntary services for the children

#### Staff Volunteering

"As a caring corporate citizen, Manulife is committed to supporting various community services, and encourages its employees and insurance/financial advisors to participate in volunteer work for the well-being of the community. Earlier this year, Manulife volunteers and their kids paired up with children from Shun Lee Centre and painted murals on the Centre's walls. The artworks brightened up the overall environment and the painting initiative attested to Manulife's caring and giving spirits. They echoed the vision of a promising future for the disadvantaged children," Michael continued. "It was undoubtedly an enjoyable and meaningful day out for the volunteers," he added.

#### The First Musical Movement and Play Therapy Room in Hong Kong

Apart from voluntary services, Manulife also sponsored the installation of a Musical Movement and Play Therapy Room at Cheung Ching Centre. In addition to the music and play therapy facilities, the room is also equipped with a rock-climbing wall, enabling children with developmental delay, autism and motor coordinating problems to receive motor training and play therapy.

"With the aid of these facilities, we hope children could enjoy sports and movement activities, whereby their self-confidence could be rebuilt and their physical development could be further enhanced," he said.

#### **Three Sensory Integration Rooms**

Heep Hong's Mary Wong Centre was funded by Manulife to set up a sensory integration room, where a therapy net, swings and other suspended equipment are in place to conduct sensory integration therapy in an effort to enhance children's sensory registration, modulation, eye-hand coordination, visual perceptual function, attention and organisation. It is particularly beneficial to children with learning difficulties, autism, developmental delay and attention deficit. A matching grant was successfully sought from the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to set up a sensory integration room at Tai Wo Hau Centre and Fu Cheong Centre respectively.

#### **Adventure Land**

Earlier this year, Manulife also financed the establishment of an Adventure Land at Shun Lee Centre, which is equipped with a rock-climbing wall, foldaway climbing frames, miniature adventure stations and audio-visual training aids. It was tailor-made for the training of children suffering from autistic disorder, sensory impairment and learning disabilities to enhance their cognitive development, physical strength, sensory responses and motor coordination.

A matching grant was also successfully sought from the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged to set up another "Adventure Land" at Mary Wong Centre, which enables more children in need in Kowloon East to receive physiotherapy.

"Manulife cares about the well-being of our future generations and will continue to support the mission of Heep Hong Society to ensure that children with special needs receive the best possible chance to develop their potential fully and grow up healthily," remarked Michael. (#)

#### Special thanks go to the following donors \*

BMI Appraisals Limited

Breakthrough Classes 31 & 34 Chen Yang Foo Oi Foundation Limited

The Community Chest of Hong Kong
The Community Chest of Hong Kong – BOCHK "Caring Hong Kong – A Heart Warming Campaign"

The Dairy Farm Co Ltd Mr and Mrs Haman and Phyllis Fan

Goldman Sachs (Asia)
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Island Shangri-La Hong Kong The Keswick Foundation

Mr Richmond Lee Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged

Penjing Asset Management (HK) Ltd. Pfizer Nutrition

Po & Helen Chung Foundation Limited
Ms Pong Yuen Yee
RBS Coutts Bank Ltd., Hong Kong Branch

Rotary Club of The Peak

Shanghai Commercial Bank Shanghai Fraternity Association H.K. Ltd.

Sinoshare Development Ltd

which made donations of HK\$10,000 or above to Heep Hong between March and July 2011

#### Updates on Services









■ Multi-media teaching materials newly produced to enhance children's language development, self-care and learning abilities

## **Pick of Resources to Unlock Children's Potential**

he following multi-media resources were newly produced by Heep Hong to share with parents and teachers its expertise and experience in supporting children in need:

The Wonderful Learning Tour is a game CD-ROM designed for children with special educational needs. It step by step helps children acquire knowledge of seasons, environmental protection, food, community amenities, and emotions through interactive and intriguing games.

Fun with Vocabulary Learning was published by the Speech Therapy Team of Heep Hong Society to help children aged 3-5 strengthen their memory, knowledge, network and retrieval of lexicon through interesting and progressive classification, odd-man out, convergent naming and divergent naming exercises. The book was sponsored by Po & Helen Chung Foundation.

Guide to Enhancing Children's Self-care Abilities marks the first publication jointly produced by Heep Hong and Sing Tao Publishing Ltd. Written by the Occupation Therapist Team, the book is intended to equip parents with knowledge of developing children's self-care skills and provide them with practical tips on tackling common self-care problems, particularly in the areas of eating, drinking, going to toilets, dressing and washing themselves.

Parent Manual on Supporting Students with Special **Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools expounds** on challenges faced by students with special educational needs in mainstream schools and their parents, and suggests feasible measures to take. Monthly donors who wish to collect a complementary copy of the book please send an email with their name, contact no. and donor no. to cdd@heephong.org. Limited Chinese copies only. First come first served.

The books and game CD-ROM are available for sale now. For details, please visit Heep Hong's website at www.heephong.org.

#### **Intensive Training in Greater China Region**

Heep Hong was invited by China Disabled Person's Federation to participate in the Seminar on Rehabilitation of Persons with Mental Disability in Shantou during 20-23 June 2011 and was the only organisation from Hong Kong to deliver speech on rehabilitation services for children with autism. From April to November 2011, Heep Hong has been offering professional training on autism, developmental delay, sensory integration, speech therapy, TEACCH, physical development and dyslexia to over 1,000 fellow practitioners in Guangzhou, Changsha, Qingdao, Shenzhen, Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Macau, Taipei, etc. Practice opportunities are also provided at Heep Hong centres for trainees to practise what they have learnt.

#### **Star Programme in Aid of Autistic Students**

Sponsored by the The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Star Programme will be launched in September 2011 to provide supporting sevices for primary and secondary students with autism in the New Territories East. Under the 3-year Programme, group training, activities after class and individual education plans will be carried out to help the students integrate into mainstream schools. Consultation and training services for teachers and parents will also be delivered. Enquiry hotline: 3618 6328.

#### **Navigating Dyslexia**

reference value. 🗷

To help 130 primary one students with dyslexia overcome learning difficulties, group training sessions and parent workshops will be held from September 2011 under a 3-year programme sponsored by the Community Chest of Hong Kong. Besides, a brand-new website (http://spld.heephong.org) on dyslexia was launched to share with parents and teachers the experience of its professional team and other resources of high

▲ Launch of

website on dyslexia