

BABY THERAPY CENTRE

A BRIEF ELEVEN YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2006

Since the establishment of the Centre by the Johanniter Orden in January 1995, more than 2400 babies have been treated in our Early Intervention Therapy program.

A team of Physio-, Occupational-, Speech, Music and Hydro therapists conducts this specialized treatment of handicapped babies between birth and the age of 3 yrs., which is the period of maximum brain growth. The parents also receive training, counseling and support. Experience has shown that through our holistic approach, many children have been helped to achieve maximum recovery, and that the quality of life of not only the child, but of the whole family has been improved.



Being the only centre of its kind in Southern Africa its activities have been extended beyond the boundaries of the country.

The website of the Centre, www.babytherapy.org.za, also offers a wide range of topics relating to development delays in young children, and parents from afar can contact the Centre for help via e-mail.

The Day Care Centre, under the supervision of a qualified nursing sister, enables many babies to partake in regular therapy, who otherwise, because of situations where the parents have problems with transport or their hours of work, would not have been able to do so.



Through the outreach stations in Mamelodi and at Popup (Pretoria Upliftment Project) the Centre is able to render its service in the remote and financially disadvantaged areas.



The recent acquisition of the neighbouring house has provided opportunities for the establishment of a nursery school for children aged 3 to 6 years who suffer from defects of vision, cerebral palsy or autism. The objective here is to prepare them for attendance at a school. At present, one group for visually impaired children has been started.

In close co-operation with local universities, medical and therapy students have been provided with lectures, demonstrations and practical participation with regard to therapy in an Early Intervention program.

As “Early Intervention Therapy” is a relatively new approach, public relations activities are crucial. It is important to convince parents to send their children for treatment at the most effective early age. An informative book entitled “The first 365 days in the Life of a Child” has been published to assist parents to monitor their own child’s development progress.

Although many parents can only contribute a little or even nothing towards the costs of therapy, no child so far has been refused treatment. For that we thank supporters, donors and God for his blessing and protection.