

# ANZA ACTION *iC2 PrepHouse: Helping low-vision children in Singapore*

CHARITY ORGANISATION iC2 PREPHOUSE PREPARES LOW-VISION CHILDREN FOR AN INDEPENDENT FUTURE, SAYS **JAMUNA RANI**.



In Singapore, parents with children who have severe low vision or blindness often have their children schooled at the Singapore School for the Visually Handicapped, where Braille is used to provide academic programs. Elsewhere, parents of children with low but still functional vision often realise early on that their children prefer to learn with print media, and there's often no resource centre to turn to for visually impaired children at this level, and Certified Vision Teachers and Orientation & Mobility (O&M) instructors are not always available at regular schools.

iC2 PrepHouse started its journey in January 2011 when two mothers, having experienced these difficulties, decided to work together to fill the gap.

Madam Lee Lay Hong has two children with low vision. As a teacher, she qualified for a Masters in Special Education in Sydney and obtained the necessary training to become Singapore's first Vision Teacher. As well as helping her own children through mainstream schooling, she also generously offered her services to other families at low cost and volunteered at several agencies. She also set up a parents' support group called Beyond Vision. It became clear, though, that there were families who could not afford her lessons and some of the equipment that the children needed.

Dr Audrey Looi, an ophthalmologist, has a son with low vision. Her search for the appropriate support for her child led to her realisation that there were no structured programs in place for children with low vision in Singapore.

Both women realised that in order to provide help for children with low vision as well

as support for their families, a charity would have to be set up and funds raised to bring in qualified teachers and instructors.


The National Council of Social Services helped iC2 PrepHouse locate its premises at Jurong Point and secured substantial funding through the Singapore Totalisator Board. Programs began in October 2011.

iC2 PrepHouse looks forward to extending help to all families and doctors dealing with low vision. It also hopes to train more vision teachers and O&M instructors to overcome the dire shortage of local expertise.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Volunteer your time:** Help make resources for these children at the school or help with fundraising activities.

**Donate goods:** From office furniture to computers, pianos and games for the children – iC2 is in need of your support.

**Fund a child:** It still costs \$45 per child per session, so a year's attendance is \$2160 for four sessions per month. All donations are tax deductible. 

Email [anzaaction@anza.org.sg](mailto:anzaaction@anza.org.sg) or Jamuna at [ic2prep@ic2.com.sg](mailto:ic2prep@ic2.com.sg) for more information.

## IC2 PREPHOUSE WISH LIST

Filing Cabinet	\$300
White Board	\$200
Film to cover the windows in staff room	\$2000
Office Chairs (6 x \$200)	\$1200
HP Laserjet	\$500
Cheque Writer	\$260
Subscription to Journals for the Blind (p.a.) x 2	\$1000
Headphones with 1 ear only (4 sets at \$80)	\$320
Speaker dock for phone/music system for gym	\$50
Computer chairs with no arms (2 x \$158)	\$316
Footstools for AT Room (2 x \$10)	\$20
Whiteboard – Magnetic	\$200
Hungry Fingers products	\$1000
Hula Hoops (3 sizes x 4 per size – 12 hoops)	\$130
Pegboards and Pegs	\$50
Invicta Big Peg Boards	\$50
Parallel Bars – Detachable x 1pair	\$90
Parallel Bars – Detachable x 1pair	\$200
Beeper Box (20 x \$2)	\$40
Lead up PG ball (4 x \$9)	\$36
The Lead Up™ All Ball (2 x \$8)	\$16
Floor balls (4 x \$2.50)	\$10
Goalball – 1	\$39
DinoSkin Coated Foam Ball – 6" (2 x \$16)	\$32
Tabletennis Table	\$490
Buzzers from Ali Baba	\$20
Soft Foam Frisbee (2 x \$16.50)	\$33
Audio Buttons	\$80
Onyx CCTV	\$4000
40" TV	\$750

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in the community

ANZA Action is a committee of volunteers who support local groups and charities.