

# A Mother's Mission



An Early Intervention Support session similar to what Rahimah has been attending. It is where parents learn hands-on skills to practice at home.

Her motherly instincts told her that her children were “not normal” and she chose to listen to them. As a mother of two children on the Autism Spectrum, Rahimah joined the SEED Toy Library after attending a disability awareness talk. She sewed cloth furnishings and was a religious class teacher before she became a full time homemaker to care for all three children with the support of her husband. She is thankful every day for her children after having difficulties conceiving and suffering a miscarriage in the first thirteen years of their marriage. This is Rahimah’s story.

*“I have never thought of the question ‘Why me?’”* It was acceptance right away. It was a surreal experience for the husband and wife as even though they had read about autism before, it was always about someone else’s children. The two days following the diagnoses were a blur but she eventually got in touch with a parent support group which opened a totally new world to her.

As she learned more, she began to understand and accept the strengths and weaknesses of her children, and chose to view them positively. She says, *“I enjoy being their mother, probably because*

*of the thirteen years of not having any children. It’s tough but when you enjoy something, it’s satisfying”*. She is on a mission to create awareness about autism in her neighbourhood by starting an inclusive playgroup and talking about autism with people she meets. Even though it can be an uphill battle, she does this because eventually her children will need others when their parents are not around. She wants to teach her children to not only receive from others because of their condition; she wants them to contribute back too.

To Rahimah, victory means celebrating and enjoying the small steps of progress, and continuously moving from one challenge to another. It also means doing the best that we can at the present moment. It means going the extra mile, enabling others to play a role, and appreciating the support that we have. Sometimes the first small step may evolve into something unexpectedly bigger. She quotes from a storybook, *“Parents have to do two things: Give their children a rope to hang on to and the wings to fly”*. Being a light-bearer in the sometimes dark and lonely world of disabilities means seeing light in every situation and finding humour in it. ■

Suan See oftentimes amazed at the tenacity of many parents such as Rahimah and they have been her inspiration and joy as she serves in this ministry.