

Editorial March 2013

Child With Special Needs

"Special Needs" is an large umbrella underneath which a staggering array of diagnoses can be wedged. Children with special needs may have mild learning disabilities or profound cognitive impairment; food allergies or terminal illness; developmental delays that catch up quickly or remain entrenched; occasional panic attacks or serious psychiatric problems.

Children with "Special needs" are commonly defined by what a child *can't* do. e.g. by milestones unmet, foods banned, activities avoided, experiences denied. These minuses hit families hard, and may make "special needs" seem like a tragic designation. Some parents will always mourn their child's lost potential, and many conditions become more troubling with time. Other families may find that their child's challenges make triumphs sweeter, and that weaknesses are often accompanied by amazing strengths.

In my practice I see following cases as children with special need:

- ADHD
- Autism,
- Cancer
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes insipidus
- Congenital Heart Disease
- Cystic fibrosis
- Down syndrome
- Dwarfism
- Dysfunction of Sensory Integration,
- Dyslexia
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Prader Willie Syndrome
- Severe food allergies
- Tourette Syndrome

Case 1

I had a very rare opportunity to treat a child with Prader Wille Syndrome. She was a young girl of 14 years. Here is the history in short mother during pregnancy had lots of emotional conflicts with her in laws also pregnancy was unplanned during pregnancy reduced foetal movement, the child was born with breech presentation, after birth immediately the child had severe breathing problems. Later there was delay of practically all milestones. As an infant she used to sleep for very long hours as a result the nutrition was suffered. When paediatrician was consulted he also saw strabismus, small nasal bridge, thin upper lip, poor physical coordination, but nothing solid was diagnosed at the age of 4 years parents observed that the child eats a lot compared to her age and as a result has added many extra kilos. This was the time when syndrome was diagnosed since no solid treatment was available on and off the child received allopathic drugs for recurrent infection of sinuses and skin.

At the age of 11 years Diabetes was diagnosed that was the time when father got alarmed and did not want to put the child on oral hypoglycaemic agents and wanted to help the child to shed some kilos but her voracious appetite came in the way.

At the age of 14 years the child was referred to me for homoeopathic treatment.

The following history was undertaken:

Father and mother had a conflict from the day one of marriage, mother was a layer and father was a professor of mathematics married in the same community but outlook towards life was pole opposite hence daily quarrels even during pregnancy, at the age of 5 years they took a divorce, later it was discovered that mother never wanted to marry as she already loved someone else. After mother left the house the behaviour of the girl changed drastically, The child upbringing was done by her paternal grandparents but they were too pampering her as a result she became spoilt, she had a lot of anger against father and loved him very much. In next few years she became bad to worse, first of all she needs food every few hours and she eats her food without chewing and masticating as a result frequent gastric upset, secondly she is very dirty in her hygienic habits will bite nails ,fingers ,pick them constantly, she is very restless and constantly needs some activity here on many occasions she runs away from the house and come home late in the evening,

she does not like to go to special school as there she quarrels with the other kids ,she talks very rudely and in an insulting way, she many times fools her father and her maid servant, she loves to watch T.V. when at home and does not help in household chores, she is lazy in the sense she just want to eat a lot and sleep or see T.V. at home. When angry she becomes very violent and starts attacking her grandparents and maid servant. She is very friendly otherwise to all her friends and relatives but she can easily fool them and manipulate them, she has a very poor self confidence and hence can't decide a thing e.g. if she has to buy shoes she will visit at least 10 shops and try 20-30 pairs before deciding what shoes to buy and then finally she says I can't decide. here are some of the mental symptoms.

MIND - ABRUPT

MIND - ABUSIVE

MIND - ABUSIVE - insulting

MIND - ACTIVITY - desires activity

MIND - AMUSEMENT - desire for

MIND - ANGER - throwing things around

MIND - AWKWARD - drops things

MIND - BITING - nails

MIND - BREAKING things

MIND - BULIMIA

MIND - COLORS - red - desire for

MIND - CONCENTRATION - difficult

MIND - CUNNING

MIND - DECEITFUL

MIND - DESTRUCTIVENESS

MIND - DIRTY

MIND - EXTROVERTED PERSONALITY

MIND - FEAR - water, of

MIND - GESTURES, makes - fingers - picking at fingers

MIND - HURRY

MIND - IMPULSE; morbid

MIND - IMPULSIVE

MIND - IRRESOLUTION

MIND - LATE - too late; always

MIND - LAUGHING - immoderately

MIND - LAUGHING - involuntarily

MIND - MOOD - changeable

MIND - OBSTINATE
MIND - RESTLESSNESS
COUGH - EXCITEMENT
SLEEP - YAWNING - spasmodic
PERSPIRATION - EXCITEMENT; after
SKIN - MOLES
GENERALALS - FOOD and DRINKS - lime, slate pencils, earth, chalk, clay
- desire

O/E

I discovered that she was obese, her muscles were hypotonic, she had, small hands and feet with tapering of fingers, soft skin, which is easily bruised, her father said her IQ 40

I started with Tarentula but honestly I was also thinking of Lachesis and Medorrhinum, however I started with Tarentula 30c and later went slowly over a period of three years up to 50M potency, acute remedies like Merc sol, Kali-bich, Mag-phos was given for her acute problems of sinusitis, colitis etc. after three years there was a drastic changes in her obesity, her sugar levels and her behaviour, later the father decided to migrate to Australia and hence I referred her case to another homoeopath

Case2

A known case of Tourette syndrome with ADHD and Behavioural problems in a young man of 26 years, on severe medication Haloperidol (Haldol) , Methylphenidate (Ritalin) and Clonidine (Catapres).

His history was as follows:

Severe Tics which comes in bouts it gets worse with any and every excitement. The tics will usually start from face and then extend to eyes, neck and upper limbs, it was more restricted to right half of the body. Spontaneous utterance of bad words mostly vulgar, repeats regularly the words of others and himself, The tics are somewhat less during sleep, there

was no family history of similar disorder, He also had severe learning disorder and cannot focus on anything, allopathic drugs that he was on produced very severe constipation, He was very sexual at an early age of 11 years he started seeing porno stuff and heavily masturbated, he had a girl friend and he regularly insist her to have intercourse with him and if she does not permit he becomes very violent with her, he asks his girlfriend to masturbate for him 2-3 times a day, He is very crazy about music, beauty, sex, porno. He is very possessive about his girlfriend, once some friend of his commented on her and he smashed the friend's face very badly. His father works in a gulf country and visits Bombay regularly, he stays with his mother and grandmother, his mother and father have frequent quarrels since beginning of the marriage, they are not divorced but as good as divorced, there is total unloved feeling in mother at the same time she has too much grief for the son and as a result she is depressed.

The son has very poor bonding with both the parents and he is very indifferent to the welfare of the parents. One main reason for this is that as a young adolescent he was physically abused by his father.

He regularly suffers from sadness without cause and then weeps in the arms of his girlfriend, he loves fizzy drinks and goes crazy with loud pop music.

I selected following symptoms for him:

MIND - ABUSIVE

MIND - AILMENTS FROM - dysfunctional parents

MIND - AILMENTS FROM - punishment

MIND - ANGER - violent

MIND - CONCENTRATION - difficult

MIND - GESTURES, makes - tics; nervous

EYE - TWITCHING

MIND - LASCIVIOUS

MIND - SENSITIVE - music, to

MIND - SENSITIVE - noise, to - music amel.

MIND - SHAMELESS - exposing - person; the

FACE - TWITCHING

RECTUM - CONSTIPATION - difficult stool

MALE GENITALIA/SEX - MASTURBATION; disposition to

MALE GENITALIA/SEX - SEXUAL DESIRE - increased

GENERALS - SIDE - right

Based on above symptoms Tarentula 30c was selected and his allopathic drugs were tapered slowly over a period of 1 year ,also we increased the potency, the aim of homoeopathic treatment was not to cure the syndrome but to reduce the symptoms, hence at the end of four years his tics became less ,his aggression reduced ,he started his own business of mobile phones and now seriously thinks of marrying his old girlfriend.

Although every special-needs child is different and every family is unique, there are some common concerns that link parents of challenged kids, including getting appropriate care and accommodations; promoting acceptance in the extended family, school and community; planning for an uncertain future; and adjusting routines and expectations. Homoeopathy goes in long way to help such desperate patients,also we should warn parents that the treatment will go for longer duration and they should be patient.