

From pre group to Early Care



Johanna Lehnert, served the EECMY-CMCC as a Coordinator during 1988-1994

The Pre Group Program started in 1988 with one multiple handicapped child. At this time Johanna Lehnert was responsible for the Daily School Program and was searching for an Ethiopian who has experience working with children with Cerebral palsy (CP). She got to know about me from SOS Children Village and asked me to come to the Centre in Kazanches.

Every two weeks on Saturday we worked with a child with CP for about two hours. During the week we visited that child at home once. After one month a mother was coming with another child to get therapy and we worked also on Tuesday. By the end of May the number of children became five. When we got in March 1989 a room for the Pre Group we did a survey and gathered other five children 4 up to 6 years old. We trained them in Activities of daily life skills and were observing the effect of starting therapy at early age. Up to June 1995 we took that and the program with the Children with CP parallel. When we started the Early Care program in September 1996 we had 30 Children with CP, 19 malnourished and two children who were physical disabled.

A report from June 1995 tells us about the work: "There were two children with bone deformities. One of them is congenital the other one by lack of vitamin D. We took them to Black Lion to show for a specialist. After a long follow-up with medicine & food the child (Kalekedan) who had problems by lack of vitamin D started walking by herself. After this start we found out that she had some problem on her leg. We brought her to p.o.c. They gave her shoes with foot splint. Now she is walking well. She is mental normal. Concerning the one with congenital deformity they told us in the Hospital is hopeless. So we are supporting the mother by giving her some food and advice."

Belaynesh Zurgie



The improvement of Kalekedan during one year
