

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Dec-69	Inception of the School naming it as 'Little Woodford' with Mrs. Menaka Parthasarathy as the Honorary Principal and Mrs.Saraswathi Narayanaswamy as the Honorary Headmistress with two main policies. The children would wear body worn hearing aids through-out their waking hours and all services would always be provided fully free. It was decided English would be the medium of instruction.
Jun-74	In-service Teacher Training in Pre-School Deaf was started
Oct-74	Parent Teacher Association of the School was formed
Jun-77	Tamil Medium was inaugurated.
Jun-79	The school 'Little Woodford' was renamed as 'Balavidyalaya The school for young deaf children'
Feb-80	'The Srinivasan Parthasarathy Trust'- The management body of the School was constituted
	A National Seminar on 'Education of the Hearing- Impaired and Exhibition of Teaching Materials' was held as part of the Decennial Celebrations of the School. His Excellency Sri Prabhudass Patwari, The Governor of Madras Presided over the function
Feb-84	'Breaking the Silence'- a handbook for Teachers of the Hearing - Impaired was approved and financed by the National Council for Education Research and Training, New Delhi and was published by the School
Feb-85	A National Seminar on Pre-School Education of the Deaf was held in connection with the 15th Anniversary of the school.
Jun-89	The School moved into its own new premises at Shastri Nagar
Feb-90	A National Seminar on 'Integration of Deaf Children into the Mainstream through pre-school Training' was conducted in connection with the 20th Anniversary of the school
Jul-90	The Principal Mrs. Saraswathi Narayanaswamy presented a paper on 'Early Language Development in Deaf Children through Informal Inputs' at the Centenary Celebrations of Alexander Graham Bell Association - International Convention at Washington D.C.-U.S.A
Dec-92	The school got a Building Grant of Rs 5,00,000/- from the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India and construction of the new wing and rebuilding the classrooms started
Dec-93	The new building of the school was inaugurated by. Hon. Minister. Sri. Tankha Balu Minister for State, Social Welfare, Government of India.
Dec-94	A National Seminar on 'Mainstreaming of Young Hearing-Impaired Children' was conducted as part of the school's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. His excellency Shri K.R.Narayanan, Vice President of India presided over the function

- Jan-97 'SAHAYAK' the Syllabus for teaching Hearing - Impaired children 0 to 6 years was formulated by the School's Principal Mrs Saraswathi Narayanaswamy and it received copyright
- Mar-98 U.S \$ 69,000 was sanctioned by the Government of Japan for the Project on 'Diagnostic & Early Intervention Centre' at the school.
- Nov-98 Mrs.Saraswathi Narayanaswamy the principal of the school visited Japan as one of the 5 Indian Delegates and attends the Seminar conducted by FWEAP (Foundation for Welfare and Education of Asian People) in Tokyo
- Mar-99 The Diagnostic Centre funded by the Govt of Japan was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr.Yuzuki Kaku Consul General of Japan in Chennai
- Nov-99 The Early Intervention Counseling Hall funded by the Govt of Japan was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr.Ryuichi Ishii Consul General of Japan in Chennai.
- Sep-00 Cummins Diesel India donated an Impedance Audiometre for the Diagnostic Center
- Mar-01 The Rehabilitation Council of India accorded recognition to the Diploma in Teaching Young Hearing Impaired (DTYHI) and Balavidyalaya Institute for Teacher Training was formally started
- Jul-01 The Institute trained the first batch of the candidates in the Diploma in Teaching Young Hearing Impaired (DTYHI)
- Nov-01 Mrs. Saraswathi Narayanaswamy attended the International Seminar on 'Teaching Speech to Hearing Impaired Children less than 5 years' held at Sydney Australia, on an invitation from Cochlear Ltd
- Aug-02 The Institute conducted a Training of Master Trainers in Early Intervention Phase I in collaboration with Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped Mumbai.
- Oct-02 Balavidyalaya, The School for Young Hearing Impaired Children, Pondicherry was inaugurated headed by Ms. J.Subbulakshmi trained by the Institute
- Nov-02 Meera Suresh, the Honorary Academic Co-ordinator got her Ph.D degree from the University of Madras. Her Thesis 'Impact of Infant Intervention on the different developments in hearing impaired children' was the first study in the country on Early Intervention of hearing impaired children.
- Dec-02 Mrs. Saraswathi Narayanaswamy received the BEST INDIVIDUAL National Award for the Welfare of persons with disabilities from the President of India during the World Day of the Disabled

- Aug-03 Apex Foundation US launched and agreed to maintain the Website www.balavidyalayaschool.org
- Aug-04 Balavidyalaya Topped Education Foundation Early Intervention Centre managed by a Church in Kottayam, Kerala & Silver Beach Singaram Pillai Vidyalaya in Villivakkam - Chennai managed by the Rotary Club of Silver Beach was started with candidates trained in the Institute
- Sep-04 The Institute conducted a Master Trainers Programme – TOT on DHVANI Phase II in collaboration with Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Hearing Handicapped Mumbai.
- Aug-05 The school received International Affiliation for being an Institution involved in developing listening skills and verbal language in children with hearing impairment.
from The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Washington DC. US.
- The State Resource Training Center in K.K.Nagar was inaugurated. Two staff members were deputed from the school to go every Friday to assist 3 to 6 year old children with hearing impairment
- Dec-06 The Institute & Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams signed a MOU and Sri Venkateswara Institute for Early Intervention SHRAVANAM was inaugurated at Tirupati. Two Early Intervention Teachers from the school were deputed to work for two years till the center had its own trained staff
- Aug-07 The Government of Tamilnadu accorded recognition to the Diploma in Teaching Young Hearing Impaired (DTYHI) conducted by the Institute
- The school changed its policy and started enrolling children using behind the ear (BTE) hearing aids.
- May-08 Srinivasan Parthasarathy Trust was renamed Balavidyalaya Trust
- Aug-08 The Commissioners Office for the Disabled conducted a meeting with District Rehabilitation Officers and Representatives of NGO's from all the Districts of Tamilnadu. Interviews were held and candidates were chosen for undergoing the one-year training in the Institute, after which they would be appointed as Special Educators for the 32 Early Intervention Centers in Tamilnadu.
- Oct-08 Mrs. Meenakshi Rajagopal Secretary Commissioner for the Disabled inaugurated the First Orientation Programme held in the Institute for the candidates who would be the Special Educators in the Early Intervention Centers of the Districts of Tamilnadu.
- 32 Early Intervention Centers started functioning in all the 32 Districts of Tamilnadu funded by the Government of Tamilnadu, managed by NGOs in the Districts. The Institute was in charge of training the staff for the centers and regularly assess its functioning.

The Government of Tamilnadu procured DHVANI Kits from the Institute and supplied them to all the Early Intervention Centers in the Districts

The Government of Tamilnadu also decided to fund an Annual Orientation programme to refresh all the special educators in the centers regularly. As a result of which the Institute hosted annual orientation programs since then every year on different topics

Jan-10 Mrs. Subbulakshmi a staff got her Ph.D from the University of Madras for her thesis on 'Techniques used to teach children with hearing impairment'

Feb-10 The 40th Crystal Jubilee Celebrations of the school was held on the 11th at the Vivekananda Auditorium in the Guindy Complex of Anna University.
Dr. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM, the Former President of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Mannar Jawahar, Vice Chancellor, Anna University participated as the Guest of Honour. Lt. Gen. R.K.Swamy, VSM, AVSM, Chief of Staff, HQ, Southern Command Pune, Indian Army was the Special Guest. The DHVANI Parent Kit was released.

A National Conference on CHALLENGES & ACHIEVEMENTS IN EARLY INTERVENTION OF DEAF & HARD OF HEARING was conducted on the 10th at Rani Seethai Hall as part of the Crystal Jubilee Celebrations. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu, Smt. Geetha Jeevan. Dr. Rama Mohana Raju IAS., Principal Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Tamilnadu delivered the Keynote Address

Mar-10 Mrs. Valli Annamalai the honorary principal got her Ph.D from the University of Madras for her thesis on 'Development of a parent empowerment programme as an intervention strategy for young deaf children'.

Jun-10 As a policy change, children using cochlear implants were also enrolled

Jun-12 SRAVANAM sub center in Vizag was inaugurated. Candidates trained in Balavidyalaya Institute for Teacher Training were appointed as teachers for the center

Jul-13 Dr. Valli Annamalai and Dr. Meera Suresh visited the US. They attended the 'Listening and Spoken Language Symposium' conducted by the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf in Los Angeles. Dr. Valli Annamalai presented a paper on 'The DHVANI Literacy Programme for young deaf children and Dr. Meera Suresh presented on 'Early Intervention Services to the Deaf Children in rural Tamilnadu, India'.

Dr. Valli Annamalai and Dr. Meera Suresh visited Advanced Bionics and interacted with the Surgeons and Professionals. They went around the campus to see the different stages of how Cochlear Implants were made.

Dr. Valli Annamalai and Dr. Meera Suresh visited John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles. They spent an evening going around the clinic getting an insight of the entire program. They also interacted with the people working in John Tracy.

Dr. Meera Suresh visited Jean Weingarten Peninsula Oral School for the Deaf in San Antonio. She watched the school at work and talked to the Management exchanging information on Balavidyalaya

Dr. Meera Suresh visited Apex Incorporation a well wisher and friend of Balavidyalaya in Washington DC. She presented a paper on Balavidyalaya and its activities to the staff, and friends of Apex. The Head of the ENT Department, the Pediatric ENT, and the Audiologist from John Hopkins Hospital also attended the presentation.

The floor of the play pen on the second floor was re-done

Apr-15 Jindal SAW Ltd donated an OTO Acoustic Emission Screener (Otoport OAE)

Jul-15 Bank of Baroda donated a water dispenser.

Sep-15 The first Early Intervention Center in Columbo in Srilanka was inaugurated. Candidates trained in Balavidyalaya Institute for Teacher Training sponsored by Amaliya Foundation were employed in the center.

Dec-15 Balavidyalaya received the coveted NATIONAL AWARD for CREATING OUTSTANDING BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES on the International Day of the Disabled. Dr Valli Annamalai received the award on behalf of the school from the Honorable Minister Arun Jaitley.

School was badly affected by floods. The floor and bathrooms got damaged. So bathrooms were broken down and completely redone. Coromandel International Ltd sponsored the renovation of the bathrooms under their CSR activity. ASHA for EDUCATION sponsored fumigation of the entire school. And the State Government of Tamilnadu sponsored clothing, and bed sheets for the children.

A Well Wisher hosted a dinner to Balavidyalaya, its friends and well wishers for having received the coveted NATIONAL AWARD for CREATING OUTSTANDING BARRIER FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

Apr-16 Under their CSR project Coromandel International Ltd donated a slide for the playpen, 5 desk tops computers, 1 lap top computer, a desk top printer a copier machine.

May-16 The civil work of changing the flooring of the classrooms that had got damaged during the floods started Apex Foundation US a long time friend of Balavidyalaya came forward with the funds required to change the flooring and redo the entrance to prevent further flooding issues.

Jun-16 The difficulties faced by children from the Tamil medium in the mainstream were assessed and a policy change was made. All the parents of children in the Tamil medium were given an option to change the children into the English medium while continuing to talk in their mother tongue at home. Except four children the whole Tamil medium decided to shift to the English medium. A syllabus was worked out for the transition classes and the new venture started with a decision to review the progress of the children at the end of the term.

Mrs. Mohana Narayanan our neighbor along with Mrs Brinda Vivekanand another well wisher volunteered to help our parents of the transition class by conducting English classes free of charge every day for one hour.

Jul-16 Under their CSR project Coromandel International Ltd donated two computer tables, three Office tables, and three computer chairs for our Office rooms.

A short term training in Early Childhood Special Education - Hearing Impairment in DHVANI Methodology for Master Trainers was started. Dr. Sheelu Srinivas an ENT Surgeon from Bangalore enrolled into the programme.

The second floor was made into an acoustically treated auditorium. The auditorium had a feature of transmitting what was happening to the ground floor too. To make this possible the partitions in the ground floor was remade to make them collapsible. Coromandel International Ltd as part of their CSR project funded the entire Auditorium and ground floor work.

Coromandel Auditorium was inaugurated on the 14th by Mr. Sameer Goel the Managing Director of Coromandel International Ltd. Mr. Prasannatha Rao the Executive Vice President and Head of HR Coromandel International Ltd as the Guest of honor.

Jun-17 Two parents of our alumni Mrs. Sanghamitra and Mrs Rajam volunteered to get involved in the spoken English fluency classes and started teaching the parents twice a week in the afternoons

Oct-17 The shooting for the 'Listen and Talk' Film was started by Mr. Veerappan Murugappa of Coromandel Productions as part of the CSR Initiative of Coromandel International Pvt Ltd to be released during the Golden Jubilee of Balavidyalaya

Members of Thursday Charity Club a regular donor donated money towards 6 ceiling fans.

'Listen and Talk' the full film and a 3 minute teaser completed after editing was handed over to Balavidyalaya.

Jul-18 A new Hybrid Diagnostic Audiometer AD 629 was bought for the Diagnostic Center and installed.

300 audience chairs and 5 stage chairs for the Auditorium was bought by Coromandel International Pvt Ltd under their CSR Project.

A 2nd set of staircase was constructed at the back of the school building with the help of Indian Oil Corporation - Chennai as part of their CSR Activities.

Dec-18 It was decided to have twelve celebrations / open houses and finally culminate in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the school.

The 49th Birthday of the school was celebrated as the first 'Open House' for friends, well wishers, alumni students, current students and their respective family members from 10 am to 12.30 pm.

The children's work, tips on identification and milestone banners were displayed. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was released. The staff cut a cake as part of the celebrations.

Jan-19 The second Open House was held for NSS students of city colleges on 'Importance of Identification, Intervention, and prevention of Deafness in young children'. 300 students take part from 8 Colleges. The children's work, tips on identification and milestone banners were displayed. The staff gave a presentation on what Balavidyalaya does and how it goes about its work. The three minute teaser on Balavidyalaya was screened.

Feb-19 The third Open house was conducted for all the NCED delegates. Around 44 delegates from Cities of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, Mumbai, and Pune visited. They watched the school at work. The three minute teaser was screened. Balavidyalaya showed a presentation on how they could start early intervention centers in their home towns. A discussion ensued where clarifications were answered.

Mar-19 Fourth open house was held. 80 IIT Madras students participated in the programme. Charts on importance of Identification, intervention and prevention of deafness were put up and explained. The three minute Listen and Talk video was screened.

Apr-19 The Fifth open house was held for 250 final MBBS students of the Department of community Medicine – Madras Medical College. The president of the PTA Dr Nirmala Muthu and Dr Meera Suresh gave talks to the students.

May-19 The Sixth open house was held for the Post Graduate students of the Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Egmore Dr Nirmala Muthu along with a few of the staff and spoke to them

The Seventh open house was held in the Institute of Child Health – Egmore. The participants included a team of Doctors from the Institute, Dr Nirmala Muthu and few of the staff interacted with them

Jun-19 The eighth open house was held in school. The participants included teachers from mainstream schools. In addition to the tips on identification the work by the children were displayed.

Aug-19 The second flight of staircase that was sponsored by IOCL as part of their CSR activity was inaugurated by Mr. Senthil Kumar of IOCL.

Sep-19 The ninth celebration was the Teachers Day. The parents took care of the children and entertained the staff. They also hosted a tea party for the staff and children.

Oct-19 The tenth celebration was the Navarathri Celebrations. The children invited the parents to the navarathri golu display in school. They individually paid obeisance to their respective parents and gave them thamboolam bags, fruits and flowers.

Nov-19 The eleventh celebration was the Childrens Day celebrations held in school. The teachers organized a merry go round and games for the children. Some alumni and some parents sponsored gifts, balloons and snacks for the children

Dec-19 The 50th Birthday of the school was the twelfth celebration. An awareness walk was held on the 1st of December. Posters and slogans were carried during the walk which was in Elliots Beach Road. The walk was flagged off by Dr Nirmala Muthu the President of the PTA. The participants wore Balavidyalaya T Shirts and Caps. Balloons were released at the end of the walk

The first floor of the school was renovated by Coromandel International Ltd as part of their CSR Activity. The whole wing now had the facility of opening up into a big hall with a LCD screen that can screen what was happening in the auditorium.

Dec-19 The Golden Jubilee Celebrations was held in Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Roa Concert Hall.

The Golden Jubilee International Conference was held for two days. The conference was made totally inclusive with the help of Microsoft Translator converting live speech to text.

Dr Suni Mathew the Director of Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities inaugurated the conference. Dr Christina Yoshinaga Itano Research Professor of the Institute of Cognitive Sciences attended as the lead resource person of the conference. Dr N.Rathna former Director of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing Mysore and AYJNISHD was the Special Guest.

The other resource persons included Mr. Emilio Alonso Mendoza the Chief Executive Officer of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the deaf and hard of hearing – Washington DC USA, Ms Gayla Guignard the Chief Strategy Officer of AG Bell – Washington DC, Prof R Rangasayee Chair Audiology Committttee International Association of Logopedics and phoniatics under WHO and the former Director of AYJNISHD, Dr M.N.Nagaraja the CEO of Dr S.R.Chandrasekhar Institute of Speech and Hearing Bangalore and the former director of AYJNISHD, and Prof Roopa Nagarajan Academic Officer and Chairperson of Department of Speech, language and hearing sciences in Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research Chennai.

The Conference had 9 sessions and over 450 participants.

The evening of the second day of the conference a reunion of alumni of Balavidyalaya was held along with a dinner for all the current and alumni children along with their parents.

The Golden Jubilee celebrations was held on the 21st of December 2019. Three films were released. One on vision and mission of the school – Listen from Infancy and talk for a life time (sponsored by CIL), second on the pioneering journey of Balavidyalaya for the last five decades and the third on Path Breakers of Balavidyalaya.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan Dy Gen Sec Programs WHO presided as the Chief Guest. A coffee table book was released.

Mar-19 The school and the Institute closed due to the Covid Pandemic

Jun-19 Mrs Saraswathi Narayanaswamy the co-founder and Honorary Director of the school passed away after a brief illness

School and Institute started virtual classes

Sep-20 DHVANI Kits were supplied to all the seven North Eastern States sponsored by Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for Speech and Hearing disabilities Mumbai followed by two Orientation programs to equip them on the usage of the Kit. The two orientation programmes were held with a gap of six months - one was virtual and the other in person in Guwahati

Oct-20 Hearing Aid Analyzer sponsored by Coromandel International Ltd was installed
For the second time the Government of Tamilnadu procured DHVANI Kit from Balavidyalaya and supplied it to all the Early Intervention Centers of the Districts

Feb-22 The school started functioning in person

Few parents who were not able to manage in the English medium. So they were again given the option to teach their child in Tamil. It was decided to offer Tamil medium to only children whose parents had absolutely no knowledge in English and had issues in teaching their child in English.

Mar-22 English fluency classes resume with the help of our parent volunteer Mrs. Sanghamitra

Apr-22 PTA The school for young deaf children dissolved and renamed Balavidyalaya's Parent Teachers Association. Members of PTA The school for young deaf children automatically become members of Balavidyalaya's PTA. The renamed PTA does not charge any subscription.