

# Autism Children Foundation (ACF)

*I am the child who cannot talk.  
You often pity me,  
I see it in your eyes.  
You wonder how much I am aware of –  
I see that as well.  
I am aware of much –  
whether you are happy or sad or fearful,  
patient or impatient, full of love and desire,  
or if you are just doing your duty by me.  
I marvel at your frustration,  
knowing mine to be far greater,  
for I cannot express myself  
or my needs as you do...*

When Jeff, a student at the Hong Kong Junior School set up by the Autism Children Foundation, looked up into my eyes and thanked me for visiting his school, he also handed me a copy of the poem above.

After reading it and watching the students and their dedicated teachers working together, I gained not only a better understanding of autism, but also of the many possibilities available to the autistic child – if only he is given the chance to pursue them.

ACF began as a group of parents of autistic children seeking affordable specialised learning programmes tailored to their children's particular needs. In November 2008, after three years of extensively researching the most effective teaching methods, training highly qualified teachers, and joining with professionals in the academic and medical fields who had long experience in working with autistic children, ACF opened the first school in Hong Kong dedicated solely to teaching children with autism.

A student's typical day includes a morning spent learning the usual school subjects from language to maths and computers, with the



afternoon dedicated to social activities and occupational therapy exercises. ACF offers a wide range of proven educational therapies and shares information about biomedical treatments, putting an emphasis on combining those approaches that work best for each individual child. Each student's academic progress is carefully tracked, and ACF hopes to launch in full the Brain Bio Kids' Programme, which provides regular testing, diagnosis and treatment by qualified medical professionals.

The prevalence of autism around the world has reached epidemic proportions over the past 20 years, but because it is not considered a life-threatening condition, it often does not receive the funding and attention it deserves. Your donation and support can help ACF redress that imbalance in Hong Kong. ■

## Autism Children Foundation (ACF) Hong Kong Junior School

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### Donations

Cheques to "Autism Children Foundation" may be mailed to above address (Please include contact details for receipt). Or donate directly at Standard Chartered Bank  
Account: Autism Children Foundation Limited  
Account no: 447-1-666477-4

## 自閉症兒童基金協會

我是個不能說話的孩子，在你眼眸裡，  
我看到你對我的憐憫；也看到你心裡的疑問——  
“孩子，你究竟曉得多少？”  
我聽得的可多著呢，  
無論你是否快樂，是否悲哀，是否恐懼，  
是否滿有耐性，是否心浮氣燥，是否充滿愛與期待，  
或純粹是履行責任——我全都知道。  
你的挫敗感令我驚訝，但我的挫敗感比你遠多著呢，  
皆因我不能像你般表達自己，也未能說出自己的需要……

那天參觀自閉症兒童基金協會創辦的Hong Kong Junior School時，其中一名學生Jeff抬頭望著我，感謝我到訪，並遞給我上述的詩句。

這首詩讓我更了解自閉症兒童的心聲，而實地探訪，也讓我看見老師不遺餘力地對身教育，學生積極配合努力學習。這不但令我對自閉症有了更多認識，同時使我明白到，只要給予自閉症兒童更多機會，或許他們能發揮出更多可能性。

自閉症兒童基金協會（ACF）是由一群熱心父母發起的組織，他們的子女同樣患有自閉症。在成立初期，ACF四出物色專門課程，以配合自閉症孩子的特殊需要，同時也要確保學費維持於可負擔範圍內。在過去三年，ACF廣泛研究各種最具成效的教學方法，積極培訓高質素的導師，並與相關的學術及醫療專家合作，這些專家統

統在自閉兒童方面具豐富經驗。最終，ACF在2008年11月於香港成立了第一所專為自閉症兒童而設的學校。

學生平日的活動可分上下午兩部分，上午會學習語文、數學和電腦等一般學科知識，下午則主要上社交活動課和進行職業治療練習。ACF亦為學童提供各種療法，例如一些經證實有效的教育治療，也會提供生物醫學療法方面的資訊，並結合有關療法，應用於學童身上，務求令每名學童都能獲得最有效的治療。此外，校方亦會小心檢視每名學童的學業進度，期望全力推行Brain Bio Kids 計劃，當中包括安排合資格醫療人員為學童定期進行測試、診斷和治療。

過去20年，全球的自閉症病例日趨普遍，不過，自閉症不被視為危及生命的病症，所以往往得不到應有的資助和關注。若能集腋成裘，得到你的捐助和支持，將有助ACF填補香港在這方面的空白。■

### 自閉症兒童基金協會

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### 直接捐款

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