Training an autistic child

It is difficult for parents to come to terms with the fact that they have a "special" child. But with wider research, autism is being better understood and you are no longer alone in dealing with such children.

By Ganga Subramaniam

Most therapists agree that medication should not be used in order to curb their restlessness. Medicines have side effects and may not always produce the desired result.

Educators should take care that they do not become overbearing and impose their views which may have a negative impact. This is often done unconsciously by parents who desire to make the children respond in the manner they want them to. What is needed is a more sensitive and humane approach to these children.

Though there has been some improvement, it is not enough. The situation demands more concerted efforts by all concerned.
Merry Barua with her son Neeraj: “Eye contact in autistic children is the easiest to improve.”

Many therapists have discovered that autistic children usually respond favourably to music, that is used at the Enabling Centre.

With early intervention, the process of training an autistic child can be much easier. While there are special schools which train these children, it is important for parents to ensure full cooperation in the training process. One parent who almost single-handedly brought up her children with autism in the initial phase of pain and confusion, and later to the same surroundings. The sameness of their environment is threatened, they react with either severe anger or increased withdrawal. Moreover, autistic children are extremely sensitive to sound and often speak of language is also characterised by repetition. Yameena Biswakarma, a special educator working at the Saraswati Puri Nursery School, pointed out that these children cannot integrate the messages they get and respond accordingly. Another distinct feature that one can notice in autistic children is their reluctance and a limited attention span. Some of these children have a tendency to get violent and may even be self-destructive.

If these children are not understood, then they can excel in other areas, such as music or dance. If they are not understood, they would probably show signs of improvement.

So, how does one distinguish an autistic child from children with other disorders? The first thing to look out for in these children is the absolute lack of communication and socialisation. They relate more to objects than human beings. Another characteristic is that, unlike other children, those who are autistic rarely engage in any form of imaginative pretend play. It has been noticed that they have a remarkable ability to the same surroundings.

The initial phase of pain and confusion, and later to the same surroundings. The sameness of their environment is threatened, they react with either severe anger or increased withdrawal. Moreover, autistic children are extremely sensitive to sound and often speak of language is also characterised by repetition. Yameena Biswakarma, a special educator working at the Saraswati Puri Nursery School, pointed out that these children cannot integrate the messages they get and respond accordingly. Another distinct feature that one can notice in autistic children is their reluctance and a limited attention span. Some of these children have a tendency to get violent and may even be self-destructive.

If these children are not understood, then they can excel in other areas, such as music or dance. If they are not understood, they would probably show signs of improvement.

So, how does one distinguish an autistic child from children with other disorders? The first thing to look out for in these children is the absolute lack of communication and socialisation. They relate more to objects than human beings. Another characteristic is that, unlike other children, those who are autistic rarely engage in any form of imaginative pretend play. It has been noticed that they have a remarkable ability to