

Sai Lakshmi's Story



Sai Lakshmi turned 5 on December 7, 2017. Of course this isn't her real birth-day. She was abandoned at a temple in Villupuram, so we have no official records of her actual birth-date. But every abandoned child has a right to celebrate his or her birthday like other children, and so we fixed Sai's date of arrival into our home as her birthday. That's how she got to celebrate it amidst much rejoicing and fanfare!

When Sai was discovered, the District Collector ordered that she be sent to the Cradle Baby center at Villupuram. After a while the Child Welfare Committee (Vellore) passed her on to us as she is intellectually challenged.

Sai lives with Cerebral Palsy (CP) – a condition marked by impaired muscle coordination (spastic paralysis) and other disabilities, typically caused by damage to the brain which could have been caused by brain injury or abnormal brain development before, during, or immediately after birth. CP affected Sai's muscle control, coordination and tone, reflex, posture and balance. It had seriously impacted her fine and gross motor skills to the extent that she was confined to bed in the early stages of her

development. Sai could not speak, interact or do anything on her own. She virtually lived in a world of her own where none could penetrate. To compound her situation, Sai has genu recurvatum (a deformity in the knee joint, so that the knee bends backwards), and she suffers bouts of fits.

Quite a dismal prognosis for any child but Sai is a winner! She is slowly and steadily transforming herself as she works with her teachers, caregivers and physiotherapist at becoming as normal as she possibly can be. Sai has shown remarkable improvement in the past 6 months and has become quite the talker! She is able to eat on her own, dress up, sway to music, solve complex jigsaw puzzles for her age, and socialize so well that it's hard to recognize this child lives with CP. We believe she's well on her way to becoming independent by her 6th birthday!

Children are a priceless gift. They aren't given to us because we are special or entitled, but because they can make our lives special as we choose to receive and love them. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child like Sai, please call our office. There are 114 children like her whose lives can be transformed with a little help!

Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust

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Sri Arunodayam is a secular organization with zero tolerance for discrimination against children, whether on the basis of caste, creed, religion, color or gender orientation.

This child is the ward of the Government of India and her identity is recognized and protected. Using her picture without permission from Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust is a punishable offence.

Report prepared by Althea D'Sylva for Sri Arunodayam Charitable Trust