

## **TYPES OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN**

Parenting is a life time job be it for a normal child or a child with special needs. Parents are teachers, guides, leaders, protectors and providers for their children. Parenting is a process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, financial and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Every child is a gift and blessing to their parents. On the other hand, parenting itself is one of the toughest jobs and that too for a child with special needs, it both a blessing and challenge.

It is very unique experience to live with a disabled child as it has a major impact on the family, siblings and extended family members. However discovering a problem should be the initial step to start with parenting such children. Discovering a child's special needs is often a confusing and painful process for parents as sometimes learning difficulties can be multiple and difficult to pinpoint and it can be hard for parents to know whether things are normal or not. There are various categories of disabilities that your child might fall under.

**There are four main categories of special needs:**

- ❖ **Physical – Multiple sclerosis, allergies and asthma, juvenile arthritis, leukemia, muscular dystrophy, epilepsy.**
- ❖ **Developmental - Down syndrome, autism, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia, aphasia or dysphasia, auditory processing disorder, visual processing disorder.**
- ❖ **Behavioral/emotional- Obsessive compulsive disorder, dissociation, post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, attention deficit (hyper activity) disorder, bipolar.**
- ❖ **Sensory – impaired: blindness, deaf or limited hearing, visually impaired.**