

## Balavidyalaya Site Visit Report 2025

Date: July 17, 2025, from 9:30 am - 11:30 am Indian Standard Time

Site Location: Balavidyalaya School for Young Deaf Children and Institute for Teacher Training, Shastri Nagar, Chennai

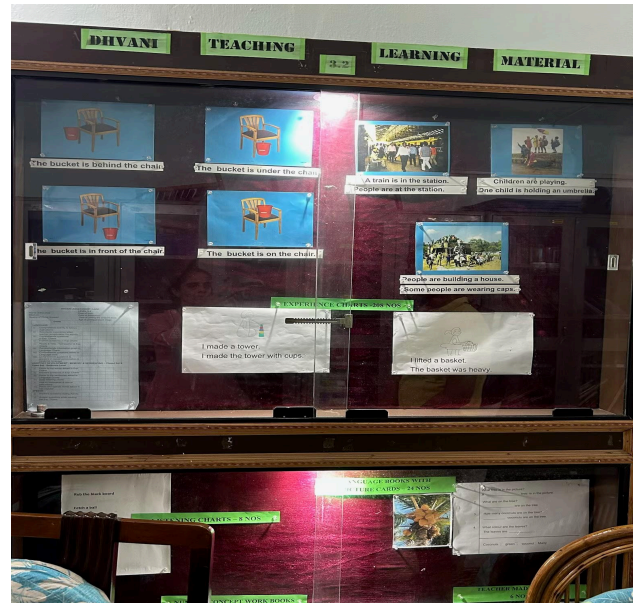
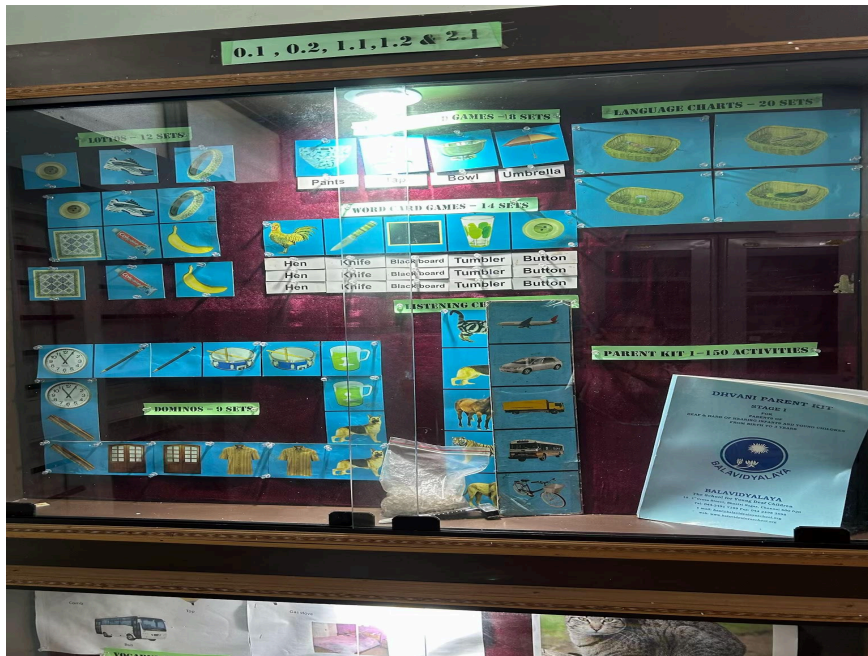
Site Visitors - Vidyut Deepak, Anitha Thyagarajan, Abhinaya Venkat

Background: Balavidyalaya is a school located in Shastri Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It provides comprehensive training for young and older deaf children, helping them overcome societal barriers through years of dedicated teaching and support. After recovering from the recent pandemic, Balavidyalaya seeks to continue developing these children.

### Site Visit Details:

Balavidyalaya offers an Early Intervention program and a preschool stage, with classes consisting of 1-4 students. The Early Intervention program helps toddlers understand comprehension, while the preschool stage focuses on teaching words, sentences, and numbers. The school has a self-made curriculum that is used to teach its students, and students are assessed every

month to see their progress.



Each room features toys and equipment that are used daily and are age- and level-appropriate. The school uses assessment cards to monitor the progress

of the students. If a child is on track, they move to the next level, while the other children stay in their level until they are ready to move on. The students of Balavidyalaya are actively engaged with the teachers and listen attentively, as shown here:





There are 2 types of classes: Tamil and English. English is often recommended for children, as it is recognized as a vital skill for this generation to succeed in the outside world. Sometimes, the parents may be concerned if they don't know English, but Balavidyalaya also offers English courses for the parents to learn. Parent communication is key, as the teacher, child, and parent must work together to create a successful environment. If there are certain situations or ideals that prevent the child from learning English, then Tamil is taught as the secondary option.

Teacher training takes place in the school and is a one-year course. The school has facilities that allow them to detect infections, and they also have

equipment such as an audiometer that allows them to diagnose the level of hearing loss, which allows them to get adequate hearing aids.



Picture of part of the testing facility above.

Some parents decide not to bring their children to schools such as Balavidyalaya as they believe things such as home remedies or homeopathy may fix the children's issues; while others believe that their children do not need special care and can do fine in regular schools, but later realize that this is not helping them. To this, Balavidyalaya urges parents to reconsider their choices.

They also have a playground in the back of their building as a place for the children to play. In that playground, they have a sandpit that has a cover since many stray cats come and would go into the pit and mess it up, so this cover helps keep them out. The school has also stated that though their numbers are not at what they were pre-covid (2020), it has significantly increased since last year and will hopefully continue to rise.

### Conclusion:

Balavidyalaya offered a glimpse into the exceptional education it provides for deaf children. The students appeared engaged and were learning effectively. The school's use of customized books and equipment designed for the students' ages and skill levels was particularly impressive. Additionally, the school's commitment to assisting parents through their journey is truly commendable. Based on our assessment of the health of the school, we feel comfortable going forward with the funding for the 2025-2026 year.