Balavidyalaya Site Visit Report 2026

Date: Monday August 17, 2026 (10:00-11:30 am)

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

Site Visitors: Vidyut Deepak, Anitha Thyagarajan

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 develops toddlers' comprehension skills, while the preschool stage focuses on teaching the children to do basic arithmetic, read and write sentences, as well as have a wide set of vocabulary. These skills help the children better transition into the main school system for primary education. The school has a self-made curriculum that is used to teach its students, and students are assessed every month to see their progress.

Below is the room where Balavidyalaya stores the school's curriculum supplies and teaching materials. Below the 2 supply and materials pictures are examples of the curriculum materials and what is taught to certain grades.









Each classroom in Balavidyalaya 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. Other children stay at their level until they are seen to be fit to move to the next level.

The children at Balavidyalaya are encouraged to actively engage and participate in classes. The teachers encourage this by keeping classes with a lower number of students (between 1-4), allowing them to engage with each student more often. In this way, the students actively participate and listen attentively as shown below:









Balavidyalaya offers classes in 2 languages: English and Tamil. It is recommended by the school that the children take classes in English, as it is recognized as a vital skill for this generation to succeed in the outside world. There are instances where parents are concerned about their children learning in English, as the household usually speaks Tamil at home, and that is the mother tongue of their relatives.

As of the past few years, Balavidyalaya has been offering English classes for parents, so that this may encourage both parents and children to learn and speak English. Consequently, the number of students in English classes are increasing and less people are taking Tamil classes. 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.

Additionally, the school has facilities that allow them to detect hearing loss, 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.



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, Balavidyalya urges parents to reconsider their choices.

In addition to the amenities mentioned above, Balavidyalaya contains an indoor and outdoor playground. This is utilized by the children of the school, whose numbers have significantly improved since last year, reaching pre-covid levels.





Renovations:

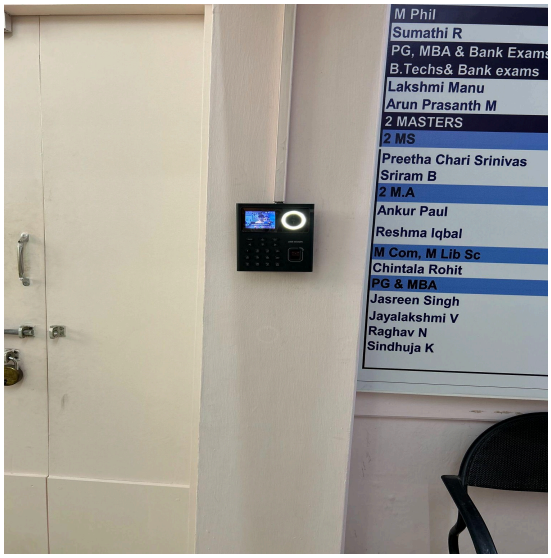
On top of the great start to their school year, Balavidyalaya has made significant renovations that are benefiting them for the better.

1) They have painted their table, giving a more vibrant vibe to the class.





2) Balavidyalaya has installed a security system, where it requires a teacher ID for authentication to enter classrooms. This allows students to not get distracted, as well as making sure unknown personnel do not enter the room, avoiding any confusion or problems.



3) To follow government regulations, the school has installed a lift that goes from the first floor up till their third floor.



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 new additions help to keep others safe, offer a more vibrant environment, and help those who need a lift. 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 2026-2027 year.

