

DR. SAMIRA AL-SAAD, Ph.D.

P. O. Box 33425, Al-Rawda 73455–Kuwait

Tel: (965) 25309300, Fax: (965) 25375017

E-mail Address: kwautism@gmail.com

● Member in the Board of Directors of the Public Authority of the Handicapped ● Member in the Council of Secretaries & the contributor in establishing Arabic Network for Autism ANA (2010) ● Vice-President of World Autism Organisation (WAO) since 2007 till now ● Head of Kuwait Society for Autism since 2006 ● Founder & Head of Gulf Autism Union since 2002 ● Head of the multi-specializations committee affiliating to the Educational Committee in the Higher Council for Handicapped from 1998-2004 ● Editor-in-Chief & Head of the 1st Specialized Periodical in Autism & Special needs– “*Silent Scream*” Newsletter distributed in the Arab World since 1997 ● Founder & Director of Kuwait Center for Autism since 1994 ● Founder of Jeddah Center for Autism (1993) ● Establishing a class & a program to teach & train the children with autism (1989) ● Member in many International/Arabic/Local Authorities and Centers for special needs ● Member in the International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction, Canada 2013.

QUALIFICATION:

- Bachelor Degree in Science/Geology-Kuwait University
- Master Degree in Special Needs from Lesley Boston College, USA
- Ph.D. from Leicester University, in UK.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

● Preparation & Implementation of training workshops for teachers in Kuwait Center for Autism since 1995 ● Founder and Trainer for teachers in friends classes–Al Faisaliah Women Society/Jeddah (1992-94) ● Lecturer of ‘Introduction to Psychology’ courses at College of Health Sciences (1999) and Early Childhood at Faculty of Education (1999) ● Academic Supervision on the Educational Program of Special Needs at Jeddah Center (2003-2004) and Riyadh Center (1999-2000) in Saudi Arabia ● Conducting Autism Workshops for the employees of Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with Kuwait University ● Preparation & Implementation of Autism classes in the Arab/Gulf countries through conducting training courses, lectures, seminars & workshops.

PUBLICATIONS:

- The 1st Author of a book about Autism in Arabic “*My Endurance & Autism*” (1992) – Alsalasil P. 3rd edition
- Founder & Editor of "Series of Spreading Awareness on Special Needs" & concerning with editing and publishing the books, publications, studies & Audio materials in the field of special needs which are estimated at 65 editions until now.
- Report concerning evaluating the educational programs conducted in Kuwait Special Needs schools under a request from the Higher Council for the Handicapped.
- Translator of many bestsellers stories for children on Autism (with copyrights) as ‘Captain Tommy’, ‘My brother is different’, ‘Play with me’, ‘Do you understand me’, ‘When my worries gets too big’, ‘Autistic Planet’.
- Edited books on Autism (in Arabic) as '50 Questions & Answers about Autism', 'Letters from Autism World', 'Autism Diagnosis...With Love', 'Voices from the Spectrum'.
- Translated bestsellers books (published with copyrights) on Autism as ‘Understanding and Teaching Children with Autism’, 'Adam's Alternative Sports Day', 'Autism & Human Rights', 'Tommy's Sunset', 'Special Educational Programs for normal people who happen to be "slow" ', 'Children with Autism & Asperger Syndrome'.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE:

● Founder & Director of Kuwait Center for Autism (the first in the Middle East) since 1994 ● Teacher in “HIGASHI” Japanese School/Boston (6 months-1987) ● Member in Saudi Society for Autism ● Consultative Committee Member for Early Intervention Center/Kuwait (1996) ● Technical Committee member of the Higher Council for Handicapped/Kuwait (1997-2004) ● The Chairman of the Case Study Committee affiliating to the Educational Committee of the Higher Council of Handicapped (1998-2004) ● Educational Committee member of the Higher Council of Handicapped (1999-2004) ● Member in Rehabilitation International/USA ● Member in Islamic Council for Disability & Rehabilitation/Al-Riyadh ● Professional Membership in International Autism Society/England and USA ● Member of Kuwait Journalist Society ● Member of Dar Al-Athar Islamiya.

PRIZES

- Social Services Prize from Women Society in 2003 (U.A.E.)
- Ideal Mother prize in 2006, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award 2007 (Kuwait)
- Jaber Prize for Quality Management 2008 (Kuwait)
- Jan Amos Comenius Medal for 2008 awarded by the UNESCO & the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic to acknowledge her work as educator who have made a significant contribution to the development of education in autism field. (Geneva)
- Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz of Riyadh award for 2010 was awarded for her effort in establishing programs for Autism in GCC region. (Saudi Arabia)
- Princess Haya Award for Special Education for 2011. (Dubai)

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC ACCREDITED JOURNALS

- ◀ Investigation Parental Perceptions and Concerns of Weight Status in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Kuwait. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Prof. Dalal Alkazemi & Abdur Rahman, College of Life Sciences, 2014.
- ◀ Psychological effects of Parenting children with Autism: Prospective Study in Kuwait. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, published International Open Journal of Psychiatry, 2013.
- ◀ Autism in Kuwait. Researcher: Dr. Samira Al-Saad. Online platform Springer Reference's 'Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders', 2013.
- ◀ Psychological effects of Parenting children with Autism: Prospective Study in Kuwait (Poster). Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, 2012.
- ◀ Olanzapine in the treatment of some behavior problem associated with autism. An Open Trial in Kuwait. (Poster). Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, 2012.
- ◀ Using whole exome sequencing to identify inherited causes of autism. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Christopher A. Walsh & Others, 2012.
- ◀ Homozygous deletions in consanguineous pedigrees implicate activity-regulated gene expression in autism. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Christopher A. Walsh & Others, 2009.
- ◀ Identifying autism loci and genes by tracing recent shared ancestry. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Christopher A. Walsh & Others, Science, 11 July 2008.
- ◀ Olanzapine treatment of some behavior associated with autism. An Open Label Trial. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, Med. Principles Practice 17: 415-418, 2008.
- ◀ Body Mass Index of Children with Autism in Kuwait (Poster). Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, R. Varghese, 2006.
- ◀ Identification of Autosomal Recessive Genes for Familial Autism and Mental Retardation. Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Christopher A. Walsh & Others, 2006.
- ◀ Body Mass Index of Children with Autism in Kuwait (Arabic), Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, R. Varghese, 2006.
- ◀ Establishing Programs for People with Autism in Kuwait and the Gulf Region (Poster). Researcher: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Presented in Autism Safari - Cape Town Conference, 2006.
- ◀ Toxic Trace Elements in the Hair of Autistic Children,). Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido, Autism (Journal of Sage Publications & NAS), Vol. 9(3), Page 287-296, July 2005.
- ◀ Dental Care of Autistic Children in Kuwait Center for Autism: a Preliminary Study (Poster). Researchers: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, H. Al-Omar & Others, 2005.
- ◀ Biological Correlates of Childhood Autism: "trace elements". Dr. Samira Al-Saad, Dr. Abdullahi Fido & Hussein Dashti, Trace Elements and Electrolytes, Vol. 19, No. 4, Page 205-208, 2002.
- ◀ Implementation of an Educational Program for Children with Autism-The Case of Kuwait. Researcher: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, International Journal of Mental Health, Vol.29, No.2, Summer 2000.
- ◀ The identification of training and educational needs for autistic children from parents perspective in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Researcher: Dr. Samira Al-Saad, (Arabic Language) Educational Journal, Academic Publication council of Kuwait University, Issue No. 45, Vol. 12, Autumn 1997.