

Jaber Ahmad Mohammad Samarat

Date of Birth: 6 October 2007

Jabber is a hearing-impaired, blind child from a refugee camp, Akbet Jber, in Jericho. He is an eight-year old student in the special needs class of Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children. He was admitted into Al-Shurooq upon a visit implemented by the social worker to his home. Where she reported that he is related to a very poor family; he is a deprived child who had never received services from any organization to improve his life; he was kept in his house with his surroundings as a subsequent to the low awareness of his situation; his family had never known that hearing aids could improve his condition, and even if they have known that they cannot offer to purchase them. Therefore, he had been living as a deaf, blind for a long time. They are just aware of his blindness, which is a habitual situation for the family since they have another child who is blind, Mohammad Samarat, five years old student in Al-Shurooq School Kindergarten. Despite all of that, the smile is outstanding on his face, he seems to be satisfied and pleased with the feeling of his family around him, especially his little brother, Mohammad; they are so close to each other. This limited situation of life was just sufficient for Jaber, since he had never exceeded it or been exposed to any skills of life; he wasn't capable to brush his teeth, wear his clothes, use the bathroom, or even eat without the help of his family.

Jaber, who has multiple disabilities, was such a challenge of a unique case for Al-Shurooq School curriculum, the techniques of his rehabilitation are significantly different than the techniques which are followed in rehabilitating visually impaired children. Thus, the school administration decided to establish a special needs class and consequently hired a specialized teacher to work with him on creating skills and then to improve them.

Successfully, the class was established and Jaber became an official student at Al-Shurooq School. The services that are provided for Jaber is apparent because, additionally for being blind, he has special problems with mobility and physical orientation, in communication, in daily life skills, and in the social areas. For that reason the class curriculum is based on developing skills, orientation and mobility training, and speech therapy. From the beginning of his admission to school, his condition has been carefully followed up, starting with consulting an Otologist and after complete examinations of his hearing; the evaluation reported that he is not fully deaf. In fact, he has a very low hearing level, which can be improved through using Hearing Aids to amplify sounds for him, and consequently making speech more intelligible.

After only one year of use the Aids, his hearing is significantly improved; he is able to share his interest in music with great pleasure, and he is able to follow the conversation with no difficulty. Also, his teacher reports his progress in learning skills becomes more marked than before; he becomes alert, interested, and aware of his surroundings. Furthermore, he is active, he is a lovable child; his attitudes are very nice toward others, and his relationship with other students is excellent.

