

DR. SAMIRA AL-SAAD

Dr. Samira Al-Saad a mother of a daughter with autism, is the Founder & Director of Jeddah Center for Autism (1993) and Kuwait Center for Autism (1994), & also the Founder & Head of Gulf Autism Union (since 2002). She had Master Degree in Special Needs from USA & Ph.D. from Leicester University in UK. In addition of establishing a specialized training Center for children with Autism which functions throughout the year serving different ranges of children with autism through different programs, Dr. Al-Saad is also an active research worker in the field of special needs with many of her research works published in scientific journals and presented/released in conferences.

She is an accomplished writer and translator contributing books on Autism to Arabic literature as well as the Founder & Editor of the first specialized periodical in Autism & Special needs – “Silent Scream” newsletter distributed in the whole Middle East since 2002. In 2007, she received the Kuwait’s first Corporate Social Responsibility award for her whole-hearted, enduring & persistent efforts for Kuwait Autism Society. Her sincere commitment to Autism field has earned her professional membership in International Autism Society, Rehabilitation International, Executive Committee of World Autism Organization, Kuwait Handicapped Society, Islamic Council for Disability & Rehabilitation in Riyadh and Committee of the Higher Council for Handicapped in Kuwait. Dr. Al-Saad is the Founder & the Head of Kuwait Autism Society (2006). She won the prize of U. A. M. Women Society (U.A.E.) in 2003, the prize of the Ideal Mother (Kuwait) in 2006, Jaber Prize for Quality Management for the category of the best establishment run by a Lady (Kuwait) in 2008 & Jan Amos Comenius Medal for 2008 from UNESCO for her work as educator who have made a significant contribution to the development of education in autism field.