# Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs: A Holistic Approach

**Duration**: 14 hours (inclusive assessment)  
**Venue**: Social Service Institute

## Overview

The Introduction to Early Intervention course is targeted at new entrants to social services. The course aims to equip individuals with the fundamental knowledge and skills in early intervention programmes for infants and children (EIPIC).

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the importance of Early Intervention (EI) for children with special needs  
- Describe the process of Early Intervention (EI)  
- Identify the common disabilities related to children with special needs  
- Explain the linked system approach to intervention leading to Individualized Education Planning  
- Describe the development of IEP Goals  
- Explain the process of conducting Functional Behavioral Analysis  
- Explain the skills required in collaborating effectively with caregivers and families

## Target Audience / Pre-requisites

Staff working in Early Intervention Programmes for Infants and Children (EIPIC) Centres; Integrated Child Care Centres (ICCC); preschools, junior classes in special education schools and early intervention roles.

## Assessment Requirements

Learners will be assessed by written questions in a summative assessment at the end of training.

## Course Content

- Introduction to Early Intervention (EI)  
- Typical and atypical development  
  - Terminologies and developmental milestones  
  - Categories and characteristics of children with special needs  
- Effective behaviour management  
- Management of sensory motor issues  
- Promoting functional social communication  
- Working collaboratively with families and professional  
- Overview of linked system of ABI

## Course Fees

- **Full fees**: $695.50 inclusive of GST  
- **Nett Fees^**: $69.55 inclusive of GST (after WDA subsidy of 90%)

^Funding is applicable to Singaporeans and Singapore PRs only.
Mrs June Tham-Toh Syn Yuen was the Executive Director of Rainbow Centre before she retired in 2014. She holds a Master of Education, Diploma in Management Studies, Certification of Achievement in Outcome Management: Train-The-Trainer, Early Childhood Intervention, Treatment and Education of Autistic and Related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH) and Advanced Certification in Training and Assessment (ACTA). She was one of the two pioneer scholars from Singapore to have successfully completed the ‘Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management’ Programme in July 2008 at the Harvard Business School.

Mrs Tham has devoted her career of 33 years in the special needs sector working with professionals and caregivers of children with special needs, and collaborating with the Government, partners in the private and social service sector to develop and setting up initiatives to improve services and programmes. She has played a significant role in the formation of Rainbow Centre and was instrumental in setting a benchmark for purpose-built facilities for early intervention and special education programmes. A strong advocate and firm believer for professional development and support for caregivers, she established a training and consultancy arm in Rainbow Centre to promote awareness and professional competency in the sector for caregivers and professionals in early childhood and special education. Besides having extensive experience and knowledge in the governance of VWOs in the social service sector, Mrs Tham has co-authored and co-edited three editions of ‘Rainbow Dreams’, a publication covering the development of special Education in Singapore, symptoms, special conditions, treatment programmes and coping and adjustment issues on special needs. In October 2015, she was accorded recognition as a Pioneer Special Education Principal by the Ministry of Education for her leadership and contributions to the development of special education in Singapore.

Mrs Tham has also been invited to train and speak at local and regional platforms on special needs. Since her retirement, she has taken on appointments as adjunct trainer/lecturer on courses with Social Service Institute and other tertiary institutions, as well as continuing in her voluntary work, among which, as a member of the Panel of Advisors with the Family and Youth Court.