



# News

from the

## Kazakhstan Ergotherapy Association

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### Word from the interim-president

*Gerdine Lok*

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We as KEA therapists are very excited to share about new opportunities we have had the last months in promoting occupational therapy through different trainings and presentations.

It's great to see more people catching our vision, and a willingness to explore the implementation of occupational therapy in different contexts. Of course we would like to see things develop very quickly, with amazing results. But we also realize that we need to have patience in working with local health care authorities, as well as for example medical universities. The dream to establish OT in Kaz is still there, and we will continue to work and partner with different people, authorities and organizations to promote this wonderful profession that we call OT!

Especially for those living in Kazakhstan: do get in touch with us if you are interested in OT, or would love to know more about our work.



**We'd love to hear from you!**

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### A mother's love for her daughter

*A story from Almaty*

Nurguli's business in Shymkent makes specialized wooden standing frames and chairs for children with cerebral palsy. His equipment is good quality and easy to adjust and we enjoy recommending his products to families who need them.

Nataly\* came to see us with her 3-year-old daughter who has cerebral palsy. We tried her daughter in a standing frame and floor chair that we keep in our office and Nataly was delighted with the result. She usually holds her daughter for long periods, but this equipment kept her daughter in a good position and gave her daughter the stability and confidence she needed to engage in fine motor tasks like drawing.

Nataly wanted the equipment for her daughter, but she couldn't really afford it.

A few weeks later we got a call from a lady who didn't really know Nataly, but her daughter had seen Nataly's Instagram photo and this lady wanted to pay for both pieces of equipment in full!

We helped her order from Nurguli and we delivered the equipment to Nataly's home and made sure it was adjusted correctly for her daughters' needs.

Now, each time we visit their home we are amazed at the progress her daughter is making! She is standing in the frame every day and sitting in the correct position for her joints and muscles to grow and develop well!

*\*name changed*



## Training in Taraz

Two of our KEA members, together with a public fund, ran a 3-day training in Taraz last month. It was a joy to train six people to work with children with disabilities. The participants received lessons and workshops on disability and how to care for children with disabilities. Then the children came to join us so that we could practically assist one another to improve the quality of life of the kids.

This is a yearlong training program. Every second month the six participants will get additional training. The participants will visit the children and their families regularly in their homes.

We are excited to see the impact the training program and consequent home visits will have on the children and on the community.



Edited by Linda Beadle

This newsletter will be distributed every three months. Do you have any questions or recommendations? Or do you want to unsubscribe from the newsletter? Please contact [info@ergotherapy.kz](mailto:info@ergotherapy.kz)