

Child Development of Ethnic Children

Written by Miss Jaranya Phrompijard (Kru Ouang)



Kru Ouang (left)

Child development is very important, especially for the children who are in Primary School level and it is sensitive for the children who cannot communicate in Thai language at all at the start of schooling.

Every year we go to the villages in the mountainous border areas to find underprivileged children at risk with different backgrounds, giving them an opportunity to register to live and study in School for Life. In the academic year 2017-18, we had 5 new children, age 8-10 years, who never had a formal education and were unable to communicate in Thai, they could only communicate in their tribal language.

My name is Miss Jaranya Phrompijard (Kru Ouang). I am a kindergarten teacher in School for Life. I teach the children Thai language with my teaching skills: teaching media in the classroom and practice a lot of activities outside the classroom. For example, I teach children to read Thai consonants, write simple words such as eyes, ears, nose, etc., from pictures, read flash cards, match pictures and words, sing songs, play games, etc. Children also learn by observing the teachers and their friends on the campus.

All teaching methods are aimed to develop children in **four aspects (4 “a”)**.

1. **Physical aspects** such as drawing pictures, inventing various things, etc.
2. **Emotional aspects** such as movement based on music, art work, game, etc.
3. **Social aspects** such as field trips, excursions, special activities in the school, etc.
4. **Cognitive aspects**, for example, children find the alphabets in their names or their family' names, etc.

With teaching methods to develop the children in four aspects, I focus on the concept of School for Life “learning by doing”, the children are participating in the school activities. We saw a great progress in development of kindergarten ethnic children, and they could follow their lessons well in primary school level in the following year. Children are happy to learn and live in School for Life.

In School for Life, volunteers were very helpful in teaching English vocabularies, playing games, cooking and baking with the kindergarten children. With this newsletter, I would like to thank “the previous volunteers” who came to help in the kindergarten class and I would like to invite college/university students and youths to volunteer in our kindergarten. Volunteers will get a unique opportunity to develop their skills, to try something new and to gain the knowledge of cultures, dresses, languages and characteristics of the different ethnic minority groups in Thailand. That is why School for Life is an ideal place for young volunteers.









School for Life Chiang Mai

185/3, Moo 4, T. Pamieng, Doi Saket, Chiang Mai 50220, Thailand.