

Teaching and Learning Science in School for Life

Written by Miss Jiraporn Kongin (Kru Jen)

Hello, I am Jiraporn Kongin, nickname Jen, a science teacher of Grade1-9 in School for Life.

Teaching Method

I like the concept of School for Life “Life-oriented intercultural learning by doing” as it is suitable for our children who are from the various ethnic minority groups, most of whom are farmers in the rural areas in the North of Thailand. So I used the teaching method of “Active learning in real situations”. It is the method that focuses on the student engagement and interaction; it needs students to use their own hands and enable them to learn by experience combining the theory learned; that also is “Learning by doing”.

Science for Rural Community

Most of the relatives of our children are farmers. Farmers play a crucial role in Thai society. But they are poorly educated, living in rural, less developed areas, lacking sufficient knowledge for supporting their well being. I think by educating the children of the community, they could lead the community development one day when they become adult. Thus, education of science and technology for farming, livestock breeding, building and healthcare are obviously important for these children. It will enable them to produce more organic agriculture products, improve living standard and health, and sustain development in a long run.

In addition, children need to develop their creativity and critical thinking so that they can apply the natural resources in their region for their community and they can do necessary measures to protect crops and their villages from natural disasters.

Science for Organic Farming

Organic Farming is one of the Centers of Excellent in School for Life. I teach the children basic ideas of planting such as types of soil, each function of leaves, roots, stem and branches of a plant so that they understand how a plant can live and grow. Then, students will be able to learn science and technology of cultivation and harvesting. Thus the children can combine the scientific knowledge and experience gained from the school organic farm on the campus.

Science for Environmental Issues

I teach the children Three “R” (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) of waste management as these are the great ways to eliminate waste and protect our environment, and how waste affects and harm our environment and our health. Children now understand the environment, which is everything around us including air, water, land, plants, and man-made things, and why we need a healthy environment for good health and then happiness. I teach the children to become a key player in making our world a safe and healthy place. Children now become to know:

Reduce Waste: A key part of waste reduction is conservation – use natural resources wisely, and use less than usual in order to avoid waste.

Reuse: You can reuse materials in their original form instead of throwing them away, or pass those materials on to others who could use them too.

Recycle: Don't throw away anything that can be recycled.

In School for Life, German volunteers are doing with the children for a healthy environment for the school, putting separate garbage bins for paper, waste food, plastic bags and bottles. Nowadays we sell waste papers and empty plastic bottles to a recycle company near our school and reuse waste food for pigs and making compost for natural fertilizer.

All in all, the children in School for Life have fun and enjoy learning Science, understanding the benefits of it.



Kru Jen (left)







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