



SERENJE ORPHANS SCHOOL HOME

FEBRUARY 2009 REPORT –ZAO Serenje

The children are doing fine in general. They attend school almost everyday from Monday to Friday. Physical condition is also up to date despite a few of them having ringworms. But this has been put to the attention and being taken care of. I have been visiting the orphanage as often as I can so that I can have a clear depiction of what transpires at the orphanage.

Occupational Therapist students

As I stated in the last report that Serenje Orphans School Home received three Belgium Occupational Therapist students. I also promised to give more details on what they are doing in this February report. I already stated what they are expected to do or their activities. The following is what they have done so far:

For week one, their objective was to observe the children and get to know their problems better and this is what they had to do:

- They played games with them to get to know the children
- untying a big human knot in order to improve the structural orientation and the abstract thinking of the children



- to improve eye-hand-coordination they conducted the following
 - colouring
 - painting



- to cut pieces of a puzzle
- several games with a ball



- With mathematics below is what they have done though they faced a lot of challenges when they just started. But they are happy because most of the children have few problems now.
 - They gave the orphans simple exercises (plus, minus, dividing, multiplying)
 - tricks to count better (for example $7+9=7+3+6=10+6=16$ □ to count with round numbers)
 - taught the children that one hand has five fingers, when the children count on their fingers they don't have to count each finger, they can count in numbers of five
 - trained the children how to write the numbers correct (some write for example 41 instead of 14)
 - taught some children the symbols of the numbers
 - played domino game with simple math exercises
 - getting them to know the hundred field



- To help them with Attention and concentration they did the following
 - Jungle speed (also visual discrimination)
 - making a puzzle
 - clapping game with all the hands



For week two, their goal was to improving writing and basic mathematics.
They practiced the Tables of multiplying (1, 2 and 3) in groups and did the following



⇒ Individual training and guidance with exercises in mathematics

⇒ Writing therapy:

- Teaching the children with writing problems and how to hold their pencil correctly
- Teaching the children with writing problems a good writing position
- Pré-writing exercises
- Exercises for writing the numbers correctly



⇒ Games:

- What time is it? The goal here was to improve the meaning of the numbers into actions
- Team building: Exercises to trust each other
- Counting in group till Ten, without saying a number together or wrong. The children can't discuss a strategy and have to mention a number when they think it's correct.

⇒ Weighing and measuring of the children

⇒ Painting Boards with blackboard paint, so the children have their own blackboards to practice writing and calculate on.



⇒ The snake game: They created a playing board with numbers, the children had to roll the dices and have to count to move their pon. When they hit a coloured square they have to do a task (like mathematics, writing, cognitive and Motor exercises etc. When the children miss they had to go back to the starting square. The first one at the finish wins.



Goal for this was: Team spirit, social skills, counting and writing skills, discussing skills and motor skills.

⇒ A mathematics test to see the progress of the children who got individual therapy was conducted. The results were impressive.

In week three, they went to Nkongolo Community School to observe children with much problem. Their observation included

- Observing a class in \ grade one (John, Terence and Kapeya)
 - Observing the teaching method
 - Observing the children in class
 - Observing the school topics
 - Observing the class structure

The goal was to get their therapy in the same structures as the children get in school. So they didn't get confused even more. They thought it was important to work with the children on the right level.

Some of the activities for week three were to re emphasise

- Writing therapy with the children that need it.
 - Pre-writing exercises
 - Pen holding
 - Pressure in writing
 - Writing the symbols of the numbers one to ten.
 - Number sense
- Mathematics
 - Minus, plus, dividing and multiplying
 - Making a visual representation of mathematics
 - Working with the hundred field
 - Tricks to count better and faster
 - Mathematics games

For week four, they focused on all the children and not just those with learning problems. Here also, their goal was to stimulate all the children in their psycho-metrical development.

- Developing eye-hand coordination, concentration and attention through the making of friendship bracelets.
- Musical package with several exercises to stimulate team working, communication, balance skills and cognitive thinking skills.
- Painting; stimulating eye hand coordination, improve on self-esteem, creativity and expression.
- Teambuilding exercises and competition.
- Magic tricks: Teaching the children to think further than the eye can see
- Balance exercises in the chicken fight games
- Cognitive skills and concentration in hand clapping game.
- Spending some quality time with the children

The students are doing a good job in improving the ability of children academically. This is because of their dedication to the orphans. They take time with the children and help them understand what they are talking about and its importance. 'We have few problems now with the children compared to when we came', said one of the students.

Pre-Laundry Survey

A pre-laundry survey was conducted trying to find out the behaviour of the children and the workers towards cleaning of bedding and clothes. Since, Zambia Orphans Appeal in Italy has plans to setup up a laundry in future they thought it was important to do this and find out if it is of importance to children.

Canteen

After such a long time of waiting for the commencement of building the canteen, the work has now started. Below is a picture showing the moulding of the blocks for the canteen at the orphanage. Look forward for progress of this building in the March 2009 ZOA Report –Serenje.



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