

'Kids painting program, a little act for a better life'

Een verslag van de start en de eerste vijf maanden van het speciale kinderprogramma geschreven door onze contactpersoon.

I still remember the day when I saw a little boy ride a motorcycle around the village, drive fast and didn't wear helmet or any safety equipment. Surprised, I was wondering did the parents notice that their son drives a motorcycle? Didn't he know driving a motorcycle is dangerous, especially for a little kid, 9/10years old, when his feet can't even touch the ground when he drives?

Hanging around in the village for some more time, I realized that other kids did the same thing. Riding a motorcycle around, hanging out together, watching t.v. It was like a common activity for the kids. Then I talked with them and with some parents and then I realised that the problem is : the kids didn't have any activity to do. In the village is a lack of activities for kids. They just go to school then stay at home or hang around in the village. We can find an art activity sometimes, like gamelan group. But they only practice when there is festival in the capital city. And it is for the adults, the kids can only watch. So the kids not really have an activity.

An idea came up to me.

"Why didn't I make an activity for them? Why not doing something? Look around, they are just kids. They just need a little help. Maybe I can find something... I can draw. I can teach them how to draw. They will love it.. maybe I can prepare a drawing activity and..."

But I didn't have any fund to buy the materials...

I kept this thought in mind, for months... wished that someday I would find a solution.

Then I meet the two woman from SRI who helped me out, Willemien and Janny.

I got the fund, bought the materials, and could not wait to start the project : KIDS ACTIVITY PROJECT, DRAWING CLASS. My friend, Dudyk, who has a house in the village said that the class can take place in his house. We can start the first class and he will help to gather the kids. This was so exciting!

Now we are doing this for 5 months. The number of the kids in the list is 14, some are very excited with the class and keep coming every Sunday. Others are not too excited but still coming sometimes. So we can't predict how many kids will join us today, how many will come next week. The number is always changing.

We know that dealing with the kids is little complicated. We have to keep them happy and excited. Sometimes they come in a very good mood, sometimes not. Sometimes they can draw on 3 papers sometime can't finish even 1 paper. But we are so glad we can keep the class until now.

After we started the project, we got attention from the community. People in the village are happy with what we do. Some parents came with their kids, asked if their kids can join the class. We got the youngest student, a 3 years old girl who loves to paint with markers. She always comes with her grandmother. Wake up early in Sunday morning and says that she wants to go school (she thinks our class is school) and always is the first student who arrives. She's so cute and she loves to clean up everything after the class. She even folds her own table by herself.

Some of the kids are in love with drawing. Two of them come to the house after school Asking if they can do the drawing more often besides on Sunday. They said they didn't really want to play anything so they decided they want to draw something. I was so happy to have them. Dudyk always gives the paper and art materials and let them draw anytime they like.

Last month we did not have the class because of a big ceremony was held in the house. We were afraid it would be difficult to gather the kids again. What if they didn't want to come again? What if we had to start everything from the beginning?

But the kids are so amazing! They didn't let us down! They keep asking, "When we can draw again? When will we start again? Can we come today? Can we come tomorrow?"

It was heartwarming knowing that they keep the passion. And yes, they came when we said we can start the class again. We also get donation from the community. I asked if anybody has any kind of art material to donate, and they start to give us paper, pencil, paint, and a big bag to save our art materials.

Everybody can do something to help other. All we need just a random act of kindness.

Thank you SRI for helping us with this! Lots of love from Bali!

Yogi, november 2014