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Supporting the schooling of Children with Intellectual Disabilities

The new School Year has already started in public schools. But in Cambodia, Children with Intellectual Disabilities have very few opportunities to get education particularly in the country side. Several reasons prevent them attending school such as, discrimination, poverty of the families and lack of understanding on disability issues. This is why The Rabbit school support these children and their parents so that the children have equal rights to education as non-disable children. More than our current projects, we lead and participate in awarnes events and each year we participate in School Campaigns as well as in Open school Days in our target areas.

For the School Year 2016-2017 we participate in 15 School campaigns and 4 Open School days (one in each target area). The Purpose of the School campaigns is to identify Children with intellectual Disabilities in the communities, encourage their parents to bring them to the school and enrol the children in the school.

The objectives of our participation in the Open School Days is to provide information to parents, authorities and communities on the rights of the Children with Intellectual Disabilities, send a message to the policy makers about the importance of Education Programs for these children, encourage the parents to send them to the school, reduce the discrimination in the schools by inviting the teachers and the non-disable children to welcome the Children with Intellectual Disabilities. We also encourage stake holders to give financially and resources donations to the schools.

School Directors, National and Local authorities, stakeholders and communities also participate in these events. By continuing to work together we can reach more Children with Intellectual Disabilities through the country.



Annual Staff Retreat Strengthening our Institutional Capacity

The last 4 to 7 October, The Rabbit School Organization has successfully conducted its Annual Staff retreat 2016 in Siem Reap. There were 48 participants of our target areas. Management and logistics Staff, Teachers and supervisors meet all together with the purpose to strengthen their capacity on understanding and comply with organizational policies, reflect on the current planning and activities and built their relationships and communication skills.



Participants were very happy to join the retreat and find it really useful for their work and relationships. They discussed internal policies like Staff, Financial, Conflicts of Interest, Grievance, Mechanism Complain, Child Protection and Gender Policies. Post-tests allowed to measure the staff knowledge on each policy. In addition, the presentation of progress activities report that included intended target results and challenges allowed to initiate reflection and discussion on future Organizational Project planning and implementation. Otherwise, planned Buiding Team Activities and free time spent together were very usefull to strengthen the relation ships among staff.

"I was very happy to join the retreat "said SreyMom, administrative and financial assistant. "We could better know how to share the policies with the teachers and sharing discussion with them. We also could make relationships and Team work"

"From my observation, the retreat was very good as the staff learnt to know each other even if they come from far away and work in differents locations Said Vuthy, Project Manager. "Beside knowing each other, staff can also learn more about our differents projects, activities and policies"

For Phirum, Administrative and Finacial Manager, the retreat was very positive. *"I observed that all staff enjoyed this time. It was a usefful and positive experience wich provides us good learning and new challenges"; "Concerning the policies, I think that new satff could better aproach these and the staff that has been working longuer with us could be more aware"*

Supported by





**Integration into the society
is a need for Children and
Youth with Intellectual
Disabilities**



... More about our Annual Retreat...

Teachers were happy to meet together, learn more about policies and projects and share knowledge. "We, need to meet together with other teachers. During the retreat it was great to share ideas with other teachers" said Soklay, Teacher assistant in the Special Class. "We could also give working advice each other during the breaks and lunch time". "It was really a very friendly time and it was great to eat and enjoy together like a big family!". "It was also very important to learn more about policies, I particularly find very nice the Children protection Policy!".



The training has been planned in all our target areas for the benefit of teachers, parents and children.



Supporting Teachers and Parents in Speech and Language Therapy

In addition to the usual training for Teachers and Parents, The Rabbit School has been providing particular support to them in Speech and Language Therapy with the help of professional Speech and Language Therapists from the City University of London.

Two therapists, Nikki Darby and Kirsty Witherspoon, are working closely with the Rabbit School supervisors and teachers to support all aspects of daily children communication. They are giving support in the classrooms and helping the teachers to develop their strategies working with Children with Intellectual Disabilities. They are also giving support in the vocational Training to increase the communication skills of the students to prepare them for work. Furthermore, the therapists are conducting training for teachers on *Introduction to Speech and Language Therapy* and training for parents on *Supporting Children at Home*. In the same way, with the partnership of Aide and Action, one other team of 3 therapists, Alice King, Emma Whittingham and Raj Cheema have conducted trainings for the teachers.

The *Introduction to Speech and Language Therapy* training is a 3 day course that focuses on identifying and supporting speech, language and communication difficulties. It provides teachers with strategies to support the Children in the classrooms. Several activities and group work illustrate the different topics and help understanding.

The *Supporting at Home Children* training for the parents, covers types of disability as well as their impact on speech, language and communication development. In addition, to respond to parent's request there is a focus on behavior support which covers the causes of the *challenging behavior* and the strategies to reduce and manage this. The training also includes a *Practical Resource Making Session* where parents are taught to make resources which they can take home to help them-selves and their children. *challenging behavior* and the strategies to reduce and manage this.

Call for donations

You can support ours students to start the next school year 2016 – 2017 giving an amount of your choice:

5 US ➔ **for One Cleaning kit**
(4 tooth-pastes, 4 tooth-brushes, 4 soaps, 4 shampoos)



25 US ➔ **for One learning toys kit**
(puzzles, balls, building sets, modeling paste, figures)



10 US ➔ **for One School Uniform**
(2 shirts, 2 skirts/trousers, 1 pair of shoes)



30 US ➔ **for One food package**
(rice, canned fish, oil seasonings)



15 US ➔ **for One School equipment kit**
(School bag, books, drawing books, pencils, color pencils, eraser, pencil case)



40 US ➔ **for One bicycle**
(Bicycle and helmet)



Any other amount you wish