

Lego Club in the Learning Support Class

We were fortunate to have been invited to participate in a research project using Lego to facilitate communication and social skills. Brenda Peters is studying for her Doctorate Degree at the Hong Kong Institute for Education, having previously taught for many years at the Jockey Club Sarah Roe School, Bradbury and Kowloon Junior Primary Schools.

For ten weeks, three CWBS students from Years 3 and 4 were involved in a lego building project. Brenda found out that the students liked cars so she brought a kit for the students to complete. There were special roles for each member of the team; builder, engineer and supplier and the team swapped roles during the construction time.



In the beginning the students found it difficult to work together, it was much easier not to communicate and to do things without the team but, the students learnt how much fun it could be if they built together.

One of the important things the team found was how to solve problems. Sometimes one would get cross with the others for not doing their job but then became very good at saying "There's a problem", identifying what the problem was and finding ways to sort it out so everyone was happy.

Here's what the lego builders had to say about the experience:

"I am very very excited every Friday because I love Lego Club with Mrs Peters and the boys."

"My mum is proud of my Lego certificates and what I have learnt in the Lego Club."

"At Lego Club I like being the builder."



Here's what their teachers have observed:

"It's fantastic to see the boys using the language they have learnt in the Lego Club in the LSC and in the classroom."



"I have really noticed a difference in how the boys relate to each other in the Lego Club and when they see each other around school."

"In assembly it was the first time Riley was confident enough to go to the front to get his certificate."

Here's what some of the parents had to say about their sons' inclusion in the project:

"He felt that he had friends and was part of team, which is something that he always wanted. It gave him a sense of achievement, which is so critical. Every week he would always say what he and the group did in the club. I do hope that LSC would be able to continue the Lego club next year, or similar program."

"For some children social skills and communication are a real struggle. They can find it hard to work with other children in small groups and even just finding the right words to use can be a bit like learning a foreign language for the first time. So it was wonderful to see the boys friendships develop during the course of the Lego club, especially the way they used the language they had learnt when interacting with each other. Our son now uses the language at home when interacting with this brother and his friends."



We are currently investigating ways to continue onto the next stage so the students can become Master Lego Builders. Building buddies are essential to the next stage.

By learning how to build together all students can learn to appreciate others. Students who find school life challenging can learn how to communicate their feelings in a better way and learn to feel successful in being part of a team.

Karen Ramsay and Brenda Peters