



Summer Mentorship Programme : Book Fair Day

Since 2015, the City University of Hong Kong School of Law Students' Professional Development and Public Service Programme ("the PDPS Programme") and the Christian Family Service Centre ("CFSC") have collaborated to organize a wide spectrum of service projects and events. In Summer 2022, the PDPS Programme and CFSC once again collaborated to organize the Summer Mentorship Programme and the Hong Kong Book Fair Visit for some children living at a women's shelter for domestic violence victims and in Tin Shui Wai.

Event Highlight

29 CityU School of Law students and alumni participated in this event as mentors and accompanied 29 underprivileged children living at the Serene Court, a women's shelter for domestic violence victims, and in Tin Shui Wai to select and purchase books at the Hong Kong Book Fair.

29 underprivileged Children benefitted from this event!



We had even arranged a bus to drive the children from Tin Shui Wai to the Book Fair! As often children living in Tin Shui Wai seldom travel far away from where they live due to financial difficulty, this was a precious opportunity for them to explore other parts of Hong Kong too!



Event rundown

Briefing Session for the volunteers



On 9 July 2022, the volunteers attended an online briefing session organized by CFSC. During the session, the social worker in charge of the event discussed the rundown on the day of the Book Fair Visit and the characteristics of the children whom they were going to serve. In particular, she talked about the techniques of how to care for domestic violence children victims and those with special education needs.

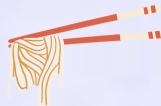
Pre-event gathering of the mentors and children

On 16 July 2022, children participants of the event ("the Children") met with their volunteers for the first time. Through participating in various entertaining group games, the Children formed a closer bond with their volunteers. The volunteers also shared some tips on how the Children could better plan their summer vacation. The Children had a joyful time and their laughter could be heard throughout the gathering. .



An enjoyable visit to the HK Book Fair

On 23 July 2022, each volunteer accompanied one child to visit the Hong Kong Book Fair and helped the child pick and purchase books which interested and suited him/her.



Bon appetit!

After visiting the Book Fair, the volunteers and the Children went to "Yum Cha" at a Chinese restaurant. The Children expressed their excitement about having chosen their favourite books at the Book Fair and talked about the books which they had purchased. Everyone had a hard time bidding farewell. The unforgettable memories created among the volunteers and the Children will permanently be engraved in their minds.



A reunion to share the book reviews

On 20 August 2022, the CFSC organized a reunion for the Children and volunteers to share their reports of the books which they had purchased at the Book Fair. The Children were thrilled to see their volunteers again and they had another fun time together.



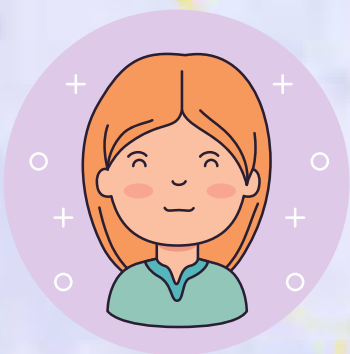
Student volunteer's feedback



I have learned so much about communication skills through this voluntary experience. It is important for us to engage in community service, but it is relatively rare for us to have a chance to take care of children who have experienced family violence. Both sympathy and empathy are needed. I sincerely hope they can enjoy the books they bought today!



Vanessa Chin LLB 2021



Celine Tong JD 2020

It was my first time interacting with children from a social background that was very different from mine. Initially, I had concerns about how to properly engage with them but I soon realised that it was not as challenging as I had anticipated. This experience has taught me that children are naturally sincere and all they require is our presence and attention. Overall, it was a valuable opportunity that has helped me develop empathy, patience, and a deeper understanding of the varied needs and experiences of underprivileged children.

Reported by Liang Ming Shan Michelle, LLB 2022

