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## Instilling principles of dignity in kids

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Learning through music: Children catches on the principles through memorising song lyrics. IN CONJUNCTION with Global Dignity Day, education facilitator Beaconhouse Group organised Malaysia's first Global Dignity Project at five of its schools for children aged between five and six. The project was aimed at stimulating good behaviour in the young through instilling Global Dignity's Five Principles, which comprises Love and Respect, Fairness and Equality, Peace and Freedom, Sharing and Honesty as well as Kindness and Forgiveness. Based on the principles, a string of fun activities were designed to help children assume the constructive qualities, including role-playing games, singing, story telling and the key exercise, drawing. "At Beaconhouse, we are not just about developing good academics, we believe in holistic education and character building," said Beaconhouse Malaysia senior manager Mikel P. H. Liow. "The children simply learn better while playing, and with proper guidance, they pick up on good conduct and attitudes through the activities." The different principles were each highlighted over the five days the project was run. However, they were narrowed down into simpler terms for the ease of children's comprehension. "Principles are hard to digest, so we have what we call 'fruits' of these principles to better guide our children," explained Liow. "These fruits are reflected in the songs they sing, stories they are told, and games they enjoy. "Children tend to remember the values better through application," added Liow. In the art segment, illustrators were engaged to guide children in working together for their drawings. "Group work is essential in the fundamentals of our teachings," noted Liow. The drawing exercise promotes group excellence as it cultivates sharing, understanding, cooperation and respect among the children." Children's rights advocate and children's books author, Quek Sue Yian, will compile all the collected drawings into a book that will also highlight the five principles. "The book will put together the children's perception of the principles. We will have the children interpret their drawings in their own way to see what their take out is," he said. Quek's book, due for completion in April next year, will not only be shared in Beaconhouse schools, but also in children's homes throughout the country. On top of that, Liow said the values would be incorporated into the existing Beaconhouse pre-school curriculum, adding that the five-day project was not enough to help build a child's right temperament. He also expressed hopes that other education facilities would embark on this programme and that awareness of the dignity principles could extend

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