

“My image of disaster prevention education has been completely changed!” – Seminar for the supervisors of afterschool children’s clubs in Ishinomaki (July 5, 2012)

Together with afterschool children’s clubs, which take care of elementary school students after school while parents are working, Save the Children has been promoting activities since the earthquake to help these children play, learn and grow in peace.

Among the activities are the seminars for the supervisors of afterschool children’s clubs held in each region from last year, supported by BVLGARI. Aiming to promote personal exchanges among supervisors and to improve their childcare skills, these seminars are held and meetings are conducted on a regular basis. By supporting the supervisors who work with children every day, while they are also the victims of disaster themselves, we are trying to raise the quality of childcare.

Here we would like to share with you about the “Disaster Prevention Seminar” held for the supervisors of Ishinomaki Afterschool Children’s Club on June 14, 2012.

In the general session of the morning, 68 supervisors participated from 28 children’s clubs of the city. It was for the supervisors to gain knowledge of disaster prevention themselves under the themes such as “the mechanism of an earthquake,” “furniture fall prevention,” “items for disaster prevention to take at the time of disaster,” first aid,” and “communication methods at the time of disaster.” The participants tried quizzes and learned others’ experiences while watching demonstrations. Furthermore, they also learned how to utilize programs that would help children enjoy learning them at their children’s clubs.

<Furniture fall prevention>



<First aid>



“As I wanted to know what we should do now, the content of the seminar was what I really wanted to learn. So it was truly a meaningful study session for me and I even felt that it was too short on time.” “My image of disaster prevention education has been completely changed. Thank you very much for teaching us so many things in this limited amount of time. As the seminar was interesting and practical, I got more and more interested.”

In the afternoon, together with 45 children and 5 supervisors of Ishinomaki Kazuma District Afterschool Children's Club, we created a shelter (small house) using plastic bags and strings.



We blew up a plastic bag, tied it with nylon strings, and then connected these bags together. At first children were wondering how these things would look like later, but they worked hard to tie the strings.



Children commented, "It was fun to blow up plastic bags," "I found it difficult to tie strings, but it was good that we could make something that really looks like a house," and "I want to do it

again.” Entering into the shelter that they had made by themselves, each child expressed their joy by saying, “It looks like the universe” and “I want to have snacks in this shelter,” and enjoyed being with their friends inside the shelter while holding hands.

Through such seminars, by teaching through playing, children gain confidence and adaption capacity that allow them to overcome any challenges during emergencies by using life products and cooperating with one another.