

“Teacher Catfish, Please Teach Us!” ~ Fun Disaster Preparedness Training ~ (September 20, 2012)

Together with the NPO Plus Arts, which is involved in disaster prevention education, Save the Children Japan (SCJ) organized “Fun Disaster Preparedness Training” for the instructors of after-school care programs (*Gakudo*). As the second component of the training, SCJ staff and student volunteers, together with children and *Gakudo* instructors, learned about disaster preparedness through playing games, using the “Disaster Preparedness Educational Kit” developed by the NPO Plus Arts. The events were held at 28 *Gakudo*s in Ishinomaki City of Miyagi prefecture, as well as at 15 *Gakudo* institutions and child centers in Ofunato, Kamaishi, and Rikuzentakata cities of Iwate prefecture. These activities are supported by BVLGARI, a world luxury brand.

◆ Fun learning about disaster prevention through games ◆

By learning about disaster preparedness through games, children are able to naturally gain knowledge on disaster preparedness while having fun.



By playing the “Disaster Preparedness Card Game: Shuffle,” they can acquire useful knowledge for emergencies, such as how to use an emergency telephone messaging service, how to use fire extinguishers, and how to make plastic bottle filters.



◆ **Manage emergencies using imagination and ingenuity** ◆

At Disaster Preparedness Card Game "Namazu School" questions about various difficult situations, which can occur during an earthquake or other disasters, are given in picture-show style. Children compete with each other by earning points: each player has item cards in hand, and select one they believe appropriate for each emergency situation. There may be more than one correct answer for each question. Children try to solve each issue, using their excellent imagination and ingenuity.



◆ **Gain skills ~ Utilization of newspapers ~** ◆

Things you can easily find around you may become useful in the event of a disaster. For example, newspapers can prove helpful in emergencies if you know how to make dishes and slippers with them, or how to use them for insulation from the cold or make a cast for broken bones.



Children making slippers that fit their feet



By making a paper cup and putting a plastic bag inside, you can drink water!

■ Voices from participating children ■

- “I can learn while enjoying games.”
- “A blanket is too big to put in a bag so I will have newspapers instead. Newspapers can be used also for other purposes.”
- (At a quiz, when asked what they would bring with them in case an earthquake occurs) “I chose hardtack biscuits. This is because after eating them all, I could make a candle using the can.”
- “It was fun, and the water was tasty when I used my handmade paper cup. I want to make paper cups at home.”
- “Games were difficult but fun to play.”

Together with *Gakudo* instructors, SCJ will continue helping children naturally gain knowledge and skills for disaster preparedness through playing games.

(Reported by Miyuki Akasaka, Sendai Office)