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#### How did you like school?

Many of us look at school as a place for serious learning but rarely as a place for one to enjoy learning activities and have a say in what one needs and wants to learn.

When you were in school, were you ever consulted as to what you wanted to learn and how you wanted to learn them? If you were lucky enough to have been asked, were you able to freely suggest ways and activities by which you could learn more effectively?

Rights and enjoyment are perhaps words often left out of any student handbook or school circular. Now that you are a teacher, principal or parent, are you the type who believes that being 'soft' on children will only make them learn or study less? Or that giving them 'choices' and allowing them to express themselves freely will only diminish discipline – discipline to make them sit up and listen to their lessons?

Each of us probably has his or her own idea or approach to education and how we can make children 'learn'. Regardless of the differences in our opinions, many of us would probably agree that SCHOOL IS FOR CHILDREN. Perhaps, we could further firm up this agreement by coming up with some common definitions...

#### What is a school?

Let us consult our dictionaries. Do you have one in your school? All dictionaries would probably contain any or some of the following definitions: 1) an institution devoted primarily to imparting knowledge or developing certain skills; 2) the building or buildings in which instruction is given; 3) any sphere or means of instruction.

#### What makes up a school?

Since it is safe to agree that 'school' is for those needing or seeking knowledge or instruction, it should be primarily composed of learners or **pupils**.

Where there are pupils, there should also be teachers who care for children, provide for their learning needs, and nurture their interests.

Then, there is the **physical school** – the school building and its facilities – classrooms, gymnasium or activity area, grounds for young children to romp and play, toilet facilities, drinking fountains, and the like.

Did we miss anything? Well, yes there's still one more and probably the most important one of all. It's all people and things that we've mentioned combined...and more. It is called the **learning environment**. The learning environment is more than just the sum total of all these – people (pupils and teachers) and things around them – parents, brothers, sisters, other relatives, and other people and things in the community where the school is located.

When all these INTERACT, and interact FAVORABLY with each other, a lot of wonderful things can happen to the child's learning. Remember that learning does not only occur within the four walls of a classroom. Learning continues when the pupil returns from school to his or her family, mingles with the neighbors and playmates, runs an errand to the sari-sari store, attends with his or her family a religious service at their place of worship, and does tens of other things. A healthy learning environment not only enhances the child's academic achievement but also ensures his or her physical, psychological, social, and emotional growth.

### **Who provides the 'learning environment'?**

School principals, teachers, parents and families, community institutions such as your local barangay council, other community members and the children themselves support each other in creating and enhancing the 'learning environment'.

### **When can a school be called a 'Child-friendly School'?**

A Child-friendly School is more than just a place for formal learning. Foremost, it is an institution that recognizes and respects the range of rights of children, and not just their right to be educated. These rights also include their rights to be healthy, to be given opportunities for play and leisure, to be protected from harm and abuse, to express their views freely, and to participate in decision-making according to their evolving capacities.

While upholding children's rights, a Child-friendly School also instills in children the responsibilities that go with their rights. Among these are to respect the rights of others, respect diversity, practice equality, and resolve differences without resorting to violence.

Just as important, a Child-friendly School takes the lead in shaping a learning environment that enables children to learn as much as their intellectual faculties could take. It is a kind of environment that allows them to grow healthy, equips them with knowledge and skills that they can use throughout life, and enables them to become responsible and productive members of their community and society.

### **What exactly is a 'Child-friendly School' and how can our school become one?**

A 'Child-friendly School' has the following five traits:

#### **1. A Child-friendly School is inclusive, gender-sensitive, and non-discriminating.**

It is said to be inclusive, gender-sensitive, and non-discriminating when it...

- does not turn away any child from enrolling and attending classes for whatever reason
- gives boys and girls equal learning opportunities
- treats all children equally, regardless of gender, social status, cultural origin or religious belief.

#### **2. A Child-friendly School is effective with children.**

It is said to be effective with children when it...

*is child-centered*

- has the best interest of the child in mind in all its learning activities
- has a curriculum that addresses the child's learning needs as well as those of the community and society
- employs teaching methods that are suited to the child's age, abilities, and ways of learning

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- encourages children to think and decide for themselves, ask questions, and express their opinions

### *promotes quality learning*

- makes sure that children master the basic skills of writing, reading, speaking (and listening), mathematics, and the necessary skills that they can use through life
- encourages children to learn by doing and by doing things with others
- makes sure that teachers are qualified to teach and continue to become better teachers
- makes sure that teachers and other staff are physically fit, adequately paid, and highly motivated.

### *encourages children to participate in school and community activities*

- encourages children to work together to solve problems and achieve what they aim to do
- encourages children to express their feelings through the arts – music, drawing, drama, and other forms

## **3. A Child-friendly School is healthy for children.**

It is said to be healthy for children when it...

- promotes children's health
- guarantees that school buildings, grounds, and facilities are safe, clean, healthy, and with adequate water and sanitary facilities
- has written policies and regular practices that promote good health
- integrates health education and life skill development in its curriculum
- hosts regular health services for children, such as immunization

## **4. A Child-friendly School is caring and protective of all children**

It is said to be caring and protective of all children when it...

- safeguards and provides security for children
- helps defend and protect children from harm and abuse
- encourages children to care for each other
- does not tolerate physical punishment on children
- has clear guidelines for conduct between students and does not allow bullying

## **5. A Child-friendly School involves children's families and the community**

It is said to involve families and the community when it...

### *works closely with children's families*

- consults parents and invites their opinions regarding school policies and activities
- holds regular dialogues with parents regarding their children's learning progress
- collaborates with parents to encourage their children to practice at home what they are learning in school
- cares as much as parents that children get enough nutrition and are in good health
- cares about the children's safety not only within the school premises but also on their way to and from school

### *engages the support and interaction of community institutions and other individuals*

- enlists the support of community institutions and individuals for its projects and activities for children
- acts on behalf of and upholds the interests of children in community assemblies

**WHAT SHOULD A CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL AIM TO ACHIEVE?**

A Child-friendly School should aspire for these seven (7) goals:

- (1) Encourage children's participation in school and community
- (2) Enhance children's health and well-being
- (3) Guarantee safe and protective spaces for children
- (4) Encourage enrolment and completion
- (5) Ensure children's high academic achievement and success
- (6) Raise teacher's morale and motivation
- (7) Mobilize community support for education

**How should our school go about achieving these goals?**

The following checklist contains **action items** that will guide you through what you need to have or need to do towards accomplishing the seven goals of the Child-friendly School.

See how many of the action items listed under each goal you have accomplished or are doing on a regular basis. Tick the box before each action item if you have accomplished this. Add up and write your total in the box after each goal. By checking what your school already has and what it is doing regularly, you will be able to track your progress towards becoming a Child-friendly School.

You may already be well along the way to becoming a Child-friendly School! Remember though that you have to be honest with your answers!

Here's one other advice... Please accomplish this checklist first before moving on to the next section.

**GOAL #1: Encourage children's participation in school and community**

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your school has a working student government.
- ☒ Your school involves students in meetings and planning sessions that concern their well-being.
- ☒ Your school involves students in the organizing, planning, and execution of the disaster preparedness and response plan.
- ☒ Your school encourages its students to get involved in community work.
- ☐ Your school has a mechanism or mechanisms – such as a school publication, students' bulletin board, or opinion box – for pupils to express their opinions about school and community issues.

4

Total number of action items checked for this goal

**GOAL # 2: Enhance children's health and well-being**

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your school maintains and regularly updates a health record of each pupil.
- ☒ Your school holds annual weighing and health examination of your pupils.
- ☒ Your school holds annual dental examination of your pupils.

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- ☒ Your school treats or refers pupils with health problems.
- ☒ Your school treats pupils with decayed teeth.
- ☒ Your school has a feeding program for malnourished children.
- ☒ Your school serves or sells healthy and nutritious food in your premises.
- ☒ Your school practices proper waste disposal.
- ☒ Your school has a steady supply of clean and safe drinking water.
- ☐ Your school has separate toilet facilities for boys and girls consisting of urinals and lavatories that are regularly maintained and kept clean.
- ☐ Your school has a functional clinic.

9

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

### GOAL # 3: Guarantee safe and protective spaces for children

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your classrooms have proper ventilation and lighting and enough space for 45-50 pupils.
- ☒ Your classroom desks and other furniture are sized to the age of the pupils. In the case of shared desks, each pupil has enough space to do seatwork.
- ☒ Your classrooms' layout and furniture allow pupils to interact and do group work.
- ☒ Your classrooms have a bulletin board or a corner that displays helpful learning materials such as posters, illustrations, newspaper and magazine clippings, and your pupils' own works.
- ☒ Your classrooms, facilities, and premises are regularly maintained and kept clean.
- ☒ Your school has safe facilities in place to address hazard threats (e.g. fire exits, fire extinguishers, appropriate electrical wirings).
- ☒ Your school has identified and prepared alternative learning spaces in cases of emergencies.
- ☒ Your school has adequate emergency/first aid kits that are readily available.
- ☒ Your school conducts regular evacuation drills for earthquake, fire, flooding, or tsunami.
- ☒ Your school has a library for reading and for study.
- ☒ Your school has facilities and equipment for recreation and sports.
- ☒ Your school has sufficient lawn space and vegetation.
- ☒ Your school has duly assigned personnel in charge of securing its premises, its properties, and those of its pupils and teachers.
- ☒ Your school coordinates with the barangay and local authorities to ensure the safety and protection of your pupils.
- ☒ Your school has a policy against discrimination with regard to gender, cultural origin, social status, religious belief, and others.
- ☒ Your school has a program for children with special needs.
- ☒ Your teachers use non-threatening styles of discipline.

17

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

### GOAL # 4: Encourage enrollment and competition

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your school has a master list of all school-age children in the community, whether enrolled or not.

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- ☒ Your school regularly coordinates with the local barangay council to identify school-age children who are out of school, for the purpose of bringing them to school.
- ☒ Your school conducts campaigns to encourage parents to enroll their children.
- ☒ Your school has a system to regularly check on the attendance of its pupils and address problems concerning non-attendance.

4

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

### GOAL # 5: Ensure children's high academic achievement and success

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your school has a clear vision/mission statement that is prominently displayed and adequately explained to all school personnel.
- ☒ The principal and teachers are familiar with child-centered and child-friendly principles.
- ☒ Your school provides each student a complete set of textbooks.
- ☒ Teachers regularly prepare their lesson plans.
- ☒ Your school encourages and promotes cooperative and "hands-on" learning ("learning by doing").
- ☒ The principal has data on the school's past three years performance in the division, regional or national tests for the purpose of improving its current year performance.
- ☒ Teachers regularly monitor and assess their pupils' academic performance, with the view of improving their performance.
- ☒ The school provides students access to ADM, ALS, and/or other learning materials for their use during emergencies.

8

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

### GOAL # 6: Raise teachers' morale and motivation

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Teachers undergo continuing and advance professional training at least once a year.
- ☒ Teachers are regularly trained in new and effective teaching-learning strategies.
- ☒ Teachers have their own lounge and/or work area.
- ☒ Teachers are given annual medical check-up.
- ☒ The principal provides strong direction and leadership guided by a written supervisory plan.
- ☒ The principal regularly monitors teachers' performance and provides needed support.
- ☒ Teachers support their co-teachers by sharing teaching techniques and experiences.
- ☒ Your school provides annual medical examination to your teachers and other staff.

8

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

**GOAL # 7: Mobilize community support for education**

What your school should have or should be doing:

- ☒ Your school has a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) that has elected leaders, meets regularly, and has a written plan of action.
- ☒ Your school coordinates with barangay institutions to identify children who are physically or sexually abused or are made to do hard physical labor, for the purpose of identifying their special needs.
- ☐ Your school coordinates with the barangay and local institutions to enroll illiterate parents in literacy programs.
- ☐ Your school takes the lead in conducting literacy programs for illiterate parents.
- ☒ Your school enlists the support of community organizations to help raise funds and resources for learning.
- ☒ Your school invites parents to discuss with your teachers the learning experiences and progress of their children.
- ☒ Your school consults parents in the drafting of its policies, and in the planning and implementation of school activities.
- ☒ Your school has organized and capacitated the School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (SDRRMC).
- ☒ Your school has strong partnerships with external stakeholders in order to address disaster risk reduction and the CCA-related needs of the school (i.e. data and statistics, capacity building, resources, etc).

7

Total number of action items checked for this goal.

**Rating your school for action items done**

**Goal # 1: Encourage children's participation in school and community**

The Goal has 5 action items. If you scored 3 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 4 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 5 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 3 points, don't color the heart. But take heart (pardon the expression), there are still six goals to assess and you might just do better with the next ones.

(Note: If you do not have crayons or color pens or pencils, you can just mark the inside of the heart with a B for Blue, P for Purple, or R for Red)



Color this heart!

**Goal # 2: Enhance children's health and well-being**

This Goal has 11 action items. If you scored 7 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 8-9 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 10-11 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 7 points, don't color the heart, if your score is lower than desired, try again with the other goals. You have five more to go!



Color this heart!

**Goal # 3: Guarantee safe, protective spaces for children**

This Goal has 17 action items. If you scored 10-11 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 12-14 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 15-17 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 10 points, don't color the heart. Did you do better this time?



Color this heart!

**Goal # 4: Encourage enrollment and completion**

This Goal has 4 action items. If you scored 2 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 3 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 4 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 2 points, don't color the heart. We're midway through the test. Let's see how you score with the rest!



Color this heart!

**Goal # 5: Ensure children's high academic achievement and success**

This Goal has 8 action items. If you scored 6 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 7 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 8 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 6 points, don't color the heart. Hope you're racking up those points!



Color this heart!



**Goal # 6: Raise teachers' morale and motivation**

This Goal has 8 action items. If you scored 4-5 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 6-7 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 8 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 4 points, don't color the heart. Do you think you'll be a Child-friendly School by the end of this test?



Color this heart!

**Goal # 7: Mobilize community support for education**

This Goal has 9 action items. If you scored 7 points, give yourself a blue heart; if you scored 8 points, give yourself a purple heart; if you scored 9 points, give yourself a red heart. If you scored lower than 7 points, don't color the heart. That's it! Hope you did well!



Color this heart!

**Accomplishing Specific Targets**

The preceding sections outlined the actions that we need to take towards establishing a Child-friendly School. However, this is just the first step. We must also ensure that our actions are effective enough to help us realize desired outcomes for children in the context of the Child-friendly School System.

We may also call these desired outcomes 'targets.' The following are the targets set for itself by the Department of Education (DepEd). The ideal, of course, is to aim for universal coverage or 100% attainment of these targets.

- All school-age children in your community are served by the school (ages 5-11 in ES, 12-15 in JHS, 16-17 in SHS).
- All children in your school who enrolled in Kinder six years ago finish Grade 6/ enrolled in Grade 7 three years ago finish Grade 10/ enrolled in Grade 11 finish Grade 12.
- All your Grade 6 pupils/Grade 10/Grade 12 students pass the division, regional, or national tests or assessments.

In addition are targets relating to the promotion of proper health and nutrition among schoolchildren and school personnel. This follows the principle that a healthy and well-nourished child is more ready for learning than a sickly one.

The additional targets are as follows:

- All schoolchildren are well nourished.
- All schoolchildren are healthy.
- All schoolchildren have good dental health.

**How much of these targets has your school accomplished?**

The following are the standards by which you are asked to rate your school:

**Enrollment and academic achievement targets for school year (SY) 2019-2020:**

1. All school-age children in your community are served by the school (ages 5-11 in ES, 12-15 in JHS, 16-17 in SHS).

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 95%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 95-96%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 97-98%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 99-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 2 point/s

2. All children in your school who enrolled in Kinder six years ago finish Grade 6/ enrolled in Grade 7 three years ago finish Grade 10/ enrolled in Grade 11 finish Grade 12.

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 77%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 77-79%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80-90%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 91-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 2 point/s

3. All your Grade 6 pupils/Grade 10/Grade 12 students pass the division, regional, or national tests or assessments.

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 50-74%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-90%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 91-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 1 point/s

**Health and nutrition targets:**

4. All your pupils/students are well nourished.

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 70%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 70-80%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 81-90%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 91-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 2 point/s

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5. All your pupils/students are healthy.

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 75%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 75-80%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 81-90%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 91-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 2 point/s

6. All your pupils/students have good dental health.

(Please check)

<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 75%	Poor	0 point
<input type="checkbox"/> 75-80%	Fair	1 point
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 81-90%	Good	2 points
<input type="checkbox"/> 91-100%	Outstanding	3 points

Your Score: 2 point/s

### How our school scored

On these pages, you will tally your scores in the two assessment categories.

To rate yourself for Action Items done (pages \_\_\_), assign the following points to your colored hearts:

Blue heart-	one (1) point
Purple heart-	two (2) points
Red heart -	three (3) points
Uncolored heart-	no (0) point

Now add up those points.

Action Items / Goals	Colored Hearts	Points
1. Encourage children's participation in school and community	Purple	3
2. Enhance children's health and well-being	Blue	3
3. Guarantee safe and protective spaces for children	Red	3
4. Encourage enrollment and completion	Blue	3
5. Ensure children's high academic achievement and success	Red	3
6. Raise teacher's morale and motivation	Red	3
7. Mobilize community support for education	Blue	2
<b>SCORE</b>		<b>20</b>

Enter and add up your scores for Accomplishing Specific Targets (pages \_\_\_) here.

Progress toward specific targets	Points
1. All school-age children in your community are	2

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served by the school (ages 5-11 in ES, 12-15 in JHS, 16-17 in SHS).	
2. All children in your school who enrolled in Kinder six years ago finish Grade 6/ enrolled in Grade 7 three years ago finish Grade 10/ enrolled in Grade 11 finish Grade 12.	2
3. All your Grade 6 pupils/Grade 10/Grade 12 students pass the division, regional, or national tests or assessments.	2
4. All your pupils are well nourished.	2
5. All your pupils are healthy.	2
6. All your pupils have good dental health.	2
<b>SCORE</b>	<b>12</b>

Now, tally your scores in the two categories.

<b>Action Items / Goals</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Progress toward Targets</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>32</b>

### So, is your school Child-friendly?

If you got a total of at least 25 points but lower than 30 points, you are a CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL!

If you got at least 30 points but lower than 35 points, you are an OUTSTANDING CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL!!

If you got 35 points or higher, you are indeed a VERY OUTSTANDING CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL!!!

To all of you who made it, CONGRATULATIONS!!! To those who didn't, you can try to do better next school year.

Now make sure that you do this every school year to see if you are keeping with or improving your performance.

Thank you for answering this little test. Until next time when we include other action items and targets in our list! Becoming a Child-friendly School is easy, don't you agree?

### INDUSTRIAL VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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(name of your school)

is a

**CHILD-FRIENDLY SCHOOL!!!**