



Unifying Neighbors Through Education and Development

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HardtHaven Children’s Home**

I would like to share a little - but fun memory from my time in Kpando. This little story is from my last week in Kpando, where all the children, the sisters and all the volunteers went to Accra in two days on a little vacation.

It was the first time out of Kpando for many of the children, so many of them had a lot of “first-time-experiences”, which gave a lot of smiles and amazement. One experience, where I couldn’t stop smile, was at the last day in Accra, where we went to Accra Shopping Mall. I had among others the responsibility for Kojo, so when he had to pee, I took him in my hand and we went to the toilet in the shopping mall. The toilet in this mall isn’t like at the children’s home. It was not like anything Kojo had seen before. He knew the toilet, but not how to flush it. He knew how to wash his hands, but the tap and the soap dispenser were again a whole new thing. Kojo and I took all these things with a big smile. Kojo actually thought it was very funny. Then we came to the hand dryer. When I turned the machine on, the smile at Kojos face diapered. He was so afraid for the machine which suddenly where noisy and blew a lot of hot air out. After a little time, when he understood what the meaning with the machine was, and that it wasn’t dangerous, he thought it was the funniest thing in the world, and we stood with our hands under the hand dryer for so long time, that our hands could dry ten times.

After the visit at the toilet Kojo run out and told some of the other children about his experience. Five minutes later we had ten children more who really needed to go to the toilet.

Another good memory from my time in Kpando is with Ruby. Sidsel and I worked with Ruby, Selase and Dzilanyo every morning in the weeks we were in Ghana. Sometimes it was challenging to find something to do with Ruby, because her concentration not always last so long. Ruby’s English vocabulary is not so good yet, but if we were doing something she didn’t like, I always knew, then she said (like only Ruby can) “no no no no no, auntie”. Opposite if we did something she really liked, we knew as well. She said “yes, yes, yes yes” and then she couldn’t sit still. One day I took some yellow and red LEGO, and we started building a house. We talked about the colour, and the parts in the house like a door, windows, roof and so on. After we finished the house, Ruby took the house, and showed it to everyone and were so proud. All the time she said “Ruby’s house”. No one should take her house. Ruby was so glad the rest of the day, and she learned for sure a new word: House.