

Education

Education provides the highest return of any social investment.

Through the education pillar of *Adopt a Village*, Free The Children builds schools, school rooms and libraries, and provides communities with school furniture and basic school supplies.



But our education pillar extends beyond building and furnishing schools. In all the countries we work in, we partner with the Ministry of Education to ensure our projects are maintained over the long-term, to create programming and initiatives to complement government-determined curriculum, and to commit to providing all students—boys and girls—with a quality education.

Together, our projects and programs create a holistic education model that empowers children to lead productive, successful and happy lives. When children are educated, entire communities attain the knowledge and tools to break the cycle of poverty, for themselves and for future generations.

Did You Know?

- Of the 67 million primary-aged children not in school, 53% are girls.
- An estimated 215 million children are engaged in child labour.
- Only 1 in 5 working children is in paid employment. Most are unpaid family workers.
- More than 793 million of the world's adults are illiterate.
- It would cost less than 1% of the world's annual weapons budget to put every child in school.

Meet Nannan

Nannan Ma is very grateful for the work **Free The Children** has done in her community. Without it, her life might be totally different. The 11-year-old, who lives with her family in Malizhuang, China, started going to school when she was seven. When she was 10, though, she had to leave school to help her parents. They run a small restaurant and, for a whole year, Nannan worked as a waitress to help out.

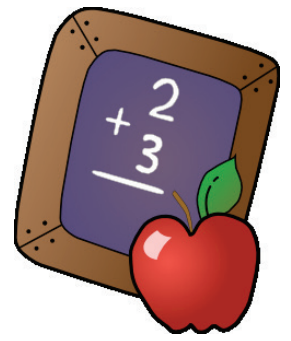
Then Free The Children built a new school in Malizhuang, with a much larger student capacity, and Nannan got a second chance at an education. "The leader of our community persuaded my parents to send me back to school and to let me finish my primary school education,"

she says. Now Nannan is back in school and learning math, physical education, Mandarin and arts. She likes learning and understands how important it is that she gets an education. "Education can help me and my family to live a better life in the future," she says.



Nannan hopes to complete her education and become a teacher. As she explains, "I want to... give knowledge to other people." She is thankful for all that Free The Children has done to help her achieve that dream. "[Free The Children] built a good new school for us and gave us the chance to go to school," she says, adding, "Without Free The Children, I might not be back at school."

"Education" Activity



Discuss your school experiences as a family.

1. What things do you learn at school?
2. What are your favourite activities at school?
3. Are there times when you haven't been able to go to school? Why couldn't you go?
Is there anything else that might stop you from being able to go to school? (*sickness, flat tire, snowy roads, etc.*)
4. If one of those things did happen, what could we do so that you could go to school? (*rest up, change the tire, etc.*)
5. What do you think it would be like if you could never go to school?

"When I grow up, I want to be..."

Brainstorm different professions that interest your children and list them here.



"Things I can do well..."

Help your child make a list of all the things that they can do and list how they learned to do them (ex: ride a bike, play soccer, etc.)



"Other things I will need..."

Ask your child to think of what other things they will need to learn in order to do the job they are interested in.



Your participation in the Dance-A-Thon will help build schools, train teachers, build libraries and administration offices, and contribute to overall capacity building in the village of Rongena in Kenya, Africa.

