



Stepping Stones 2011 Impact Survey Results

Following on from 2010's impact survey (which focused on measuring our impact on our students' interest and confidence in English), we carried out our second annual survey in Spring 2011 in Wenbo School (March – June 2011), focused on assessing what impact Stepping Stones volunteers are having on the students' English test scores. **383 students** from **grades 3-5**, who were all present at the school at the beginning and end of the semester, participated in the survey.

Wenbo School has three classes at each of grades 3-5. Stepping Stones volunteers were assigned to teach two of the classes at each grade once a week for the first time that term. One class in each grade was not assigned a volunteer, acting as a control group.

English test scores at the end of the term were compared with the scores at the beginning of the term. **We are delighted to report that the average test score improved by 9% in classes with a Stepping Stones volunteer, compared with an average 0% improvement in the classes without a Stepping Stones volunteer.**

Questionnaires were also handed out to assess the students' attitudes towards English learning. Even before our volunteers started to teach in the school, **95%** of the students reported that they **liked learning English**, **98%** of them said they **found English interesting**, and **99%** thought **English is important**, showing a remarkable enthusiasm for English language learning among Chinese primary children, and confirming the importance placed on English learning even among the young students.

In January 2011 (before volunteers were introduced into the school), **90%** of the students said they **would like to have a foreign English teacher**. In June 2011, **95%** of the students who had a volunteer teaching them English over the previous term said they liked their oral English class, and **98%** of the other students said they would like to have an oral English teacher, confirming their great enthusiasm for our volunteers' English classes.



Grade 3 students
with their
volunteer
teachers