



## **Ban Pao Sam Kha**

From Pang Soong Lodge you will be transported to the village of Ban Pao Sam Kha where the school you will be working at, Pao Sam Kha School, is located. Set in the picturesque Mae On Valley, surrounded by emerald green rice fields, Ban Pao Sam Kha is a village of about 300 people. As can be determined from the surrounding farm lands, most of the residents of this small peri-urban community earn their living through agriculture and agriculture related occupations. Not far from the village is one of the entrances to Mae Ta-khrai National Park, which is one of Chiang Mai's most beautiful national parks.

Ban Pao Sam Kha School is a primary school, or prathom school, of about 110 students and 10 teachers. Depending on your specifications, you will be assisting with their English program, helping the school set up a community garden, or doing other community service projects.

### **Teaching Overview**

Teaching, even volunteer teaching, takes dedication, effort, and planning. Be sure to reserve time every day after work to plan your next session. A lesson unprepared is a waste of time for the students, the teaching staff, and you, the volunteer.

### **Students at Pao Sam Kha**

The students at Pao Sam Kha are a great lot. They are well mannered, respectful, and thoroughly enjoy having a foreign teacher in their class. For the most part, you will find that students in higher classes have better English skills, but most are still at the beginner level and cannot yet form sentences.

### **Cultural issues**

Many ESOL students come from countries where the education system is based on rote learning, learning through memorization and repetition, through the teacher. The idea of them getting involved in their own learning is not something that comes easily. In some cases students might think that all they need to do is turn up to class to learn English. Keep monitoring targets to avoid this. EFL students are largely very westernised and most published materials are aimed at the cultural models they are comfortable with. ESOL students, on the other hand, may not know or care who Brad Pitt is. Make sure your material is right for them. Sometimes this makes it difficult to get hold of culturally appropriate materials.

In Thailand there is a hierarchical structure within institutions that the volunteer must realize. At Pao Sam Kha School expect to work with the school's English teacher during classes, following the national curriculum. However, the teacher, and students, are very open to suggested alternatives and variations to the scheduled lesson as long as it fits the theme. Learning games, songs, and other such activities offer a much needed break from the listen and repeat drills that the students are subjected to.

## **Students with no English at all**

Keep your lessons simple and concentrate on what will be useful. This might be filling in simple forms with their name and address, reading telephone numbers, timetables, prices, all kinds of signs and so on. Don't be afraid to have a lesson that is completely oral: illiterate doesn't mean someone can't remember words or phrases. Practice situations in shops, on the phone, at work, at the surgery, on a bus or train, in a bank or just social conversations. Prompts don't have to be words - they can be pictures, gestures or even real-life situations. Sometimes students don't have to write anything down to learn something meaningful and useful.

## **Resource and Curriculum Building**

While teaching students is fun and part of the program, another way to help the school in the long term is by working with the English teacher to develop worksheets, activities and lesson plans to supplement the authorized curriculum. These will help equip the English teacher with a diverse range of resources developed by native speakers that she can use with the students throughout the school year. The Internet has many websites with free ESL worksheets and lesson plans. Here at Track of the Tiger there is a small resource bank which volunteers have access to. Additionally, you may want to donate English language books and teaching materials to Pao Sam Kha School or to Track of the Tiger for use by future volunteers.

## **Practical hints for teachers**

- At the start of the lesson make classroom yours...
- Place student's bags neatly against the walls and make sure each student is sitting up straight at their desks with plenty of space for their books and equipment.
- Introduce yourself to class e.g. your name and country.
- Make a chart with 'Instruction' words. E.g. Draw, write, copy and colour in English and Thai. Place this chart above the board at the start of each lesson so that it can be referred to at all times.
- Keep your first lesson simple and build on it as you go.
- Purchase stickers as rewards for students in their books.
- Good idea to have a supply of colouring pencils to share as many don't have their own.

## **Government English Curriculum**

### **TERM 1**

18 May – 2 June: Greeting and Personal Information

3 June – 19 June: Home and Family

20 June – 6 July: Parts of the Body

7 July – 21 July: Everyday Life

22 July – 30 July: My Friends

3 Aug – 10 Aug: Sports and Hobbies

11 Aug – 25 Aug: My School

25 Aug – 3 Sept: Places and Occupations

7 Sept – 17 Sept: Local Festivals and Wisdom

21 Sept – 24 Sept: Signs and Directions

28 Sept – 30 Sept: Self Sufficiency

### **TERM 2**

1 Nov – 18 Nov: Health and Diet

19 Nov – 14 Dec: Plants and Animals

16 Dec – 6 Jan: Climate and Environment

7 Jan – 18 Jan: Entertainment

20 Jan – 11 Feb: Thai food and pastimes

14 Feb – 25 Feb: Festivals and Celebrations

28<sup>t</sup> Feb – 4 March: Tourist location