

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group
February 2011

"One day a little monkey met the other little monkeys in a room where there were lots of beautiful toys. The little monkey was so happy to see all of that. The other monkeys were very similar to her and they smiled friendly, but then... they started to speak and the poor little monkey couldn't understand any word... and when she opened her mouth nobody could make any sense of her words either..."

This is a wee story which was told by a migrant parent to her little daughter to prepare her for going to nursery.

Often when we think about emigration of children, we think that youngsters can learn a new language more quickly than adults and that they can also adapt to a new environment sooner. This is of course true, which sometimes covers the other side of the coin. For children, emigration and starting to live in a new place, going to a new school, leaving their grannies, grandpas, aunties and uncles can be a much harder experience than it is for adults. Children are much more vulnerable and can pay a much higher price for moving to new country. They often don't understand why they have to be in a new place or why people can't understand each other. Additionally, they may be more susceptible to bullying because of their differences. They can't just change their minds and purchase a ticket to go back to their mother country if they don't like the new country.

Contributed by Aneta Dabek

This month, we give thanks for...

- families who came to N. Ireland with their children to start their new homes.
- parents from minority ethnic groups who do their best to give their children a good start to their new life.
- children's potential and ability to learn and adapt to new situations and cultures quickly.

Please pray for...

- a friendly environment for children from minority ethnic backgrounds at schools, playgrounds and other places.
- wisdom for teachers and principals to deal with children's learning needs.
- the ability for parents to ease any stress or tension their child might experience.
- openness and understanding from their schoolmates and friends.
- comfort for children and parents who live apart from one another (for various reasons) and in different countries.