



Woo Pei Jun

Age: 28

Marital Status: Married

Occupation: Developmental Psychologist, Lecturer at Sunway University College

Qualifications: Master of Arts, Psychology, Boston, USA

Favourite food: Chocolates, ice-cream

Exercise: Jogging, swimming and aerobics

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN

The attractive and petite Ms. Woo Pei Jun has a great affinity with children. She attributes it to her personality and patience. "Kids are adorable, yet mischievous. They are more fun to be with and there is a better chance of changing them compared to adults," she says. Ms. Woo, a developmental psychologist, specialises in child therapy and her forte covers pre-school and primary school kids.

Ms. Woo is active in both research and clinical work related to children and parenting issues. She co-authored a research paper on *Relations of Bullying, Depression, Loneliness, Social Support and Self Esteem in Elementary Schoolchildren* which was presented at the 4th Kuala Lumpur Mental Health Conference in 2004.

Together with clinical psychologist, Dr. Teoh HJ, she has published several guide books for parents in relation to children behaviour, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and children of separated and divorced parents.

Ms. Woo finds great satisfaction in imparting skills to parents and children to improve their family life. Parents consult her on wide ranging issues such as temper tantrums, learning disabilities and misconduct in school. She shows parents "live" how to handle the worrying behaviour in front of their children. Mistakes are corrected on the spot and parents are normally relieved that they can see results.

"Most parents know what to, but practising what they know is the problem," she reveals. She adds that continuity (in practicing the correct parenting skills) is important. If not, the problems of worrying behaviour will recur.

Ms. Woo is a part-time consultant at University Malaya Medical Centre and Hospital Permai, Johor Baru. She supervises child assessment and psychological testing and conducts child therapy and programmes for management of child behaviour and conduct disorder.

Early this year, Ms. Woo joined Sunway University College, PJ as one of its lecturers in the Psychology Department which opened in March 2005. Besides teaching students, she continues her clinical work as well as community projects with both public and private sectors. Currently, she is involved in an on-going Ministry of Youth and Sports research project to study the mental health of Malaysian youths (aged 18-28).

In the meantime, she is setting her sights on obtaining a doctorate. She reveals that the main obstacle is finding a qualified person in Malaysia who supervises PhD students in the field that she likes (primary schoolchildren). Ms. Woo intends to carry out research and a doctorate thesis that will be applicable for policy making and help Malaysian society in the long run.