

**Graduation of the Third Round of Students From Wardat
Alhayat Kindergarten–Baghdad 2006**



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Preface

Life for Relief & Development sponsors Wardat Alhayat private kindergarten in Baghdad. The kindergarten has begun a “Return to Classical Arabic” project. This idea came into being in the form of a program implemented at the kindergarten. The administrative and educational faculty showed great interest in the idea and has been trained for 4-week sessions in Classical Arabic. The program relies on a psychological theory which states that children possess an inherent ability to learn and speak different languages at the age of six through their environment or with their parents. The theory suggests that children can understand a whole language with all its structures innately; this ability however gradually dissolves after the age of six.

Practicing Speech in Classical Arabic

The teaching staff at Wardat Alhayat kindergarten thought it necessary to have an environment of classical Arabic speech to replace slang in order to ensure proper Arabic speaking habits. And to achieve that end, all the teachers at the kindergarten must be speaking in good Classical Arabic. Therefore, training sessions were put in place for the teachers to reach an appropriate level of classical Arabic mastery so that the students listen and learn to speak in appropriate Arabic standards.



Families' Role in the Program

The parents were advised to do the following with their children;

- 1- Encouraging children to speak classical Arabic by all means possible.
- 2- Tell their children bedtime stories in classical Arabic.
- 3- Utilizing children's programs communicated in Arabic.
- 4- Communication between children's families and kindergarten to support children's ability to speak in classical Arabic.
- 5- Being understanding of the children's attempts to speak in classical Arabic, and avoiding mocking or ridiculing them.

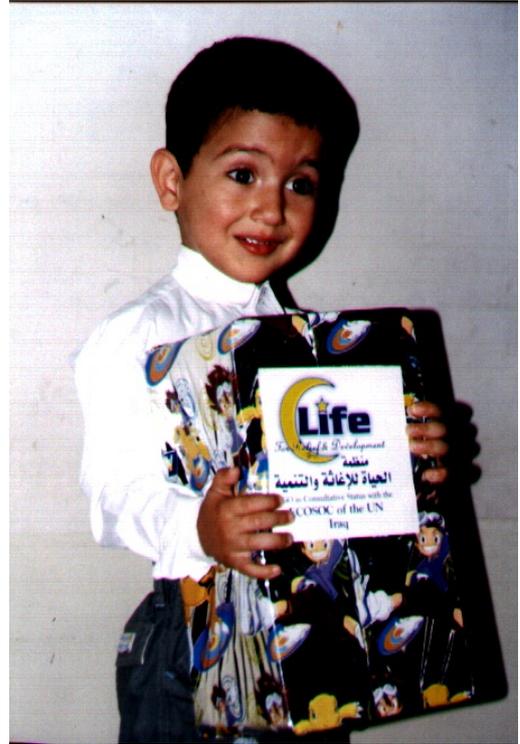
Most Tangible Pros of the program

It is very encouraging when the first signs of children speaking with proper Arabic started showing. Especially due to the importance of the Arabic language, as it is the mother language of the communicative outlet for Arab and Muslims culture, heritage and history. To ensure the success of the project, Life contacted the kindergarten's administration to inquire about the level of speech that the children possess. It was delightful to see the children speaking in proper classical Arabic among themselves and in the private interviews Life conducted with them.

Graduation Day

On the 27/4/2006 the third round of students graduated from Wardat Alhayat kindergarten. The students' number at the kindergarten and preschool is estimated at 35. The number of students graduating from preschool to elementary school was 12 and the number of graduates from kindergarten to preschool was 10.

All the children at the kindergarten attended the graduation ceremony in all their levels with their parents. A representative of Life for Relief & Development and a number of representatives of civil society organizations fostering children were also at the ceremony.



Graduation Ceremony Program

- Reciting verses from the Quran
- Opening words by the director of the kindergarten, Mrs.Kholood Ahmad Alsaraj who showed her gratitude to Life for equipping the kindergarten with all its basic and vital necessities needed to ensure the progression of the educational process.
- Contests for children and their mothers. Prizes were distributed to the winners.
- Distributing sweets and a lunch meal to the guests.
- Distributing graduation diplomas to the graduates and giving them unique gifts that encourage them to continue to the new level of education and the new school year.
- Distributing gifts of toys and dolls to the all the children attendants.
- Documenting the festivity with photographic and video cameras.



Ambitions and aspirations:

Life aspires to achieve both a horizontal and a vertical expansion of the kindergarten. The horizontal expansion is representative in the expansion of accepted students and the variety of curriculum used to teach them which cover all educational, scientific, mathematical and other mind and social skills. Repeating this experience and opening another day care in different parts of Baghdad as part of Life's future strategy.

The vertical expansion is represented in conducting a study on the possibility of launching an elementary school as a continuation of Wardat Alhayat kindergarten built on recent scientific and educational standards in step with the latest educational and scientific progress of today.