

iSchool



**A breath
of fresh air**

Features

Wednesday, September 20, 2000



Photographs: Teddy Ng / Hong Kong iMail

PLK Law's Foundation School's fashion shop

Disabled learn life skills

By **Teddy Ng**
Hong Kong iMail

WITH the belief that mentally retarded children need to be stimulated with real life experiences when learning life skills, PLK Law's Foundation School has launched an innovative project.

Several "mock environments" have been created to stimulate students' interest in the world around them, such as a fashion shop, a fast food store, a supermarket and a toy store.

There's also a room with a television set, cupboard and a bed. Students can lie down on the bed and teachers will then correct their postures.

They can buy food at the fast food shop or the supermarket.

The supermarket even has a computerised cashier system.

"We'll teach students that when they buy something, they have to pay.

"A beep would remind them that

'We'll teach students that when they buy something, they have to pay. A beep would remind them that they must pay before they can take anything out'

they must pay before they can take anything out," said Wong Kwok-kau, principal of the school.

The curriculum will vary ac-

ording to individual students' level of intelligence.

"For example, some students in the fast food shop may be asked to clean the table while others may just be asked to recognise different foods.

"But the school thinks that merely providing a mock environment is not enough to teach the students necessary life skills. So, students are also taken out to the streets to give them real life experience.

"The mock environment in the school is just the beginning. When students behave well in school, they'll also behave well outside," the principal said.

"Apart from the theme teaching mode, the school also has a sensory simulation room with colourful lights, like in a disco, to attract students."