

Daycare centre for Vulnerable Children



This day care centre was founded by three Dutch girls named Evelien Kremer, Mariska Martienus and Mariska Versteegh. They first arrived in Ecuador in 2002 as volunteers, after which they decided to start their own day care centre for the poorest children in the south of Quito. After a lot of preparations in the Netherlands and the establishment of their foundation 'Niños de Waita Ticca', this project started in March 2004. It is a project that has clear organization and good equipment and toys for the children and its aim is to improve the quality of life of children in the local area who live in poverty by supporting their education, their families and their emotional wellbeing.

There are over 55 children in the centre in the mornings from 2 years to 5 years old. They are split into three separate groups according to age and there is one teacher per group. In the afternoon there are also 25 older children (up to 13 years old) who come to the centre to receive help and support with their homework as they may not have a quiet place to do this where they live and also a free lunch. The children in the project have a doctor's control twice a month and a psychologist works voluntarily at the project to give workshops to the parents about social values and other family issues.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

In total there are 7 local employees at the project and you will assist one of them in their work with the children. You can normally choose what age group of children you would like to work with but general activities include:

- Playing with the children
- Helping with educational activities
- Cleaning and caring for the children
- Helping with meal times
- Organizing group activities
- Assisting with homework activities for the older children in the afternoon

To give you a better understanding of the circumstances in which these children live, the foundation organises house visits so that volunteers can see the reality of their daily lives.

WORK SCHEDULE

Your working week is Monday to Friday. You will have your weekends free to explore Quito and the surrounding areas. You should arrive at the centre by 8.30am and will work till approximately 16.00pm. You are welcome to eat lunch at the project with the children.

LOCATION

This project is located in the south of Quito. You will have to catch a bus to the project - it will take you approximately 30minutes to reach and slightly longer when there is traffic.