



# Tapori's 2008-2009 International Campaign

## What is Tapori?

---

Tapori is a worldwide network of friendship between children of all backgrounds.

They learn from children who have daily lives very different than their own and invent a way of being together that includes everyone.

They do this through the Tapori newsletter, which exists in six languages: French, English, Spanish, German, Portuguese, and Dutch. This newsletter is published 6 to 11 times per year, depending on the language. It is written primarily for children between 7 and 15 years old.

The Tapori website features 9 languages ([www.tapori.org](http://www.tapori.org)).

Tapori mini-books tell the true stories of children of courage from different continents. Today Tapori exists in over 50 countries in Europe, North and South America, Asia, and Africa.

## Tapori Campaigns

---

Tapori campaigns are based on true stories of children who have difficult lives and who get together to fight against poverty and exclusion. Through these stories, children from all backgrounds can get to know others from around the world and feel part of an international network of friendship.

Tapori then proposes an artistic activity to allow children to express their hope and ideas for a better world. These creations can be exhibited in schools, neighborhoods, or places where October 17<sup>th</sup> (World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty) is commemorated locally. They also travel around the world to create connections between children.

## Why Children's Meetings?

---

Thomas, a boy from France, wrote this message to Tapori:

"When I started the school year, I fought with the other boys because I was afraid of them. Now I'm not afraid anymore and they've become my friends." Thomas' message illustrates that the effect of children not knowing each other or experiencing loneliness is too often mistrust, fear, or fights. We see this between individuals and between groups of children from different cultures, religions, and social classes.

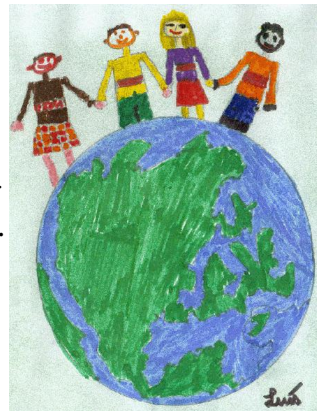
The poorest and most excluded children suffer the most from this social isolation. To break down the barriers between children, Tapori will organize meetings, small and large, through 2008 and 2009. But children can't get to know each other without the right conditions.

Children who are used to not being listened to or taken into account need time and a relationship of trust with others to be able to express themselves. For the most excluded to be able to participate in meetings, there must be a serious and long-term preparation with them.



Children are often very sensitive to injustice and to those who are left out. They take action to try to make sure that everyone can participate. They also act in favor of the rights of all children. When they can think with others, they can support each other in this. 2009 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. On this occasion, Tapori will organize meetings to reinforce children's ideas and actions.

When children from different backgrounds meet each other, they should meet as equals. That's why we propose concrete forms of expression (written and artistic) for them to be able to share their know-how and learn from each other during these meetings.



## **Where's Mackenson?: Getting to Know Each Other and the Dignity of All**

---

The theme of meeting others arises often in the messages that children send to Tapori: they write about getting to know each other, doing away with prejudices, and refusing injustice together. This campaign is launched with "Where's Mackenson?" inspired by a true story from Haiti. Based on this story, we invite children to think about how they can respect the dignity of each person and how each person can find their place. They realize that everyone can take action against exclusion. Then Tapori invites them to share their ideas with other children from around the world.

The fight against poverty necessitates the respect of everyone's equal dignity. It calls for a commitment from all. It also means inventing concrete ways of working together toward a society that recognizes each person's dignity and the fact that each person, even the most excluded, can contribute to this social transformation.

*\*You can read the story "Where's Mackenson?" in the September/October Tapori newsletter or at <http://www.tapori.org/site/-Where-s-Mackenson-.html>.*

### **Togetherhness Dazibaos**

---

After having read the story of Mackenson, we invite children to work together to create a "togetherness dazibao" (a collective poster) based on the following questions (children can ask their parents or other children to help) :

- Why do you like to get together with other children?
- What do you need to go meet other children?
- What do you like to do when you meet other children that you don't know?
- There are children like Mackenson who are often absent, have difficulties participating, or are left out. What can you do to allow them to participate?



We encourage children to add their own question too, that other children will read and answer.

#### **Writing and Drawing Answers:**

To answer these questions, we recommend creating a togetherness dazibao. "Dazibao" is a Chinese word that describes a way of expressing yourself together with others in a large and visible way about what you want everyone around you to know.

This can be a text, a poem, a drawing, or a collage (or any other artistic work).

Children write, draw, paint or glue on:

- A large sheet of paper
- A large piece of fabric
- A piece of wood

If they draw, they can also add a short text to explain what they drew.



Use a format of  
24x36 in. if possible.

### **What to Do with the Dazibaos Afterwards?**

We'd like your dazibaos to be presented on October 17, during the World Day to Overcome Extreme Poverty. If there's an October 17 event near you, keep your dazibao to exhibit it there. You can invite other children to create another dazibao with you on that day. Please send us a photo of your dazibao that we'll put on our website. Then we'll send you a reply. If there will not be an October 17 event near you, send us your dazibao as soon as possible. You can see photos of the first dazibaos done at [www.tapori.org/site/Photos-of-Dazibaos.html](http://www.tapori.org/site/Photos-of-Dazibaos.html).

We hope to receive dazibaos from all over the world. We'll put them together in a larger campaign during the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in November 2009. Whenever we can, we'll transmit children's words and ideas on the national or international level (at the United Nations, for instance). In France, Mrs. Versini, the Children's Defender, wants to take children's words into account. We'll send her a common message based on the dazibaos. This message will represent everything that you've thought about and written in the fight against exclusion.

### **A Virtual Meeting**

---

In connection with the theme of getting to know each other, we invite children to participate in a discussion forum on our website from October 6-18 ([www.tapori.org/site/Oct17Forum.html](http://www.tapori.org/site/Oct17Forum.html)). Through this forum they can communicate with other children from around the world. You can also send us a photo of the children's dazibao or a photo of the group that we'll add to the forum page. Children can even record their own audio message that you can send us for the forum.



### **And What Next?**

---

After October 17, we'll invite children to create vehicles (small or large, real or imaginary) that will allow them to go meet children from other places. We'll give more information in the newsletter and on our website toward the end of 2008. After that and until November 20, 2009 (Universal Children's Day), we'll organize local, national, and international meetings of children. We'll also try to make sure that children who have difficult lives can take part in meetings organized by UNICEF or other children's organizations. If you'd like to organize a meeting near you or find out more about meetings that are already scheduled, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.