PRINCESS KIRANA: MY LITTLE FRIEND ON CAMPUS

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Childhood is a time of exploration and learning, where lessons from trial and error leave lasting impressions. I am excited to share the story of my little friend, Kirana, who has been a part of my life on campus.

Kirana is not only cute and intelligent, but also incredibly curious. She has roots in both Malaysia and Indonesia and her parents, who are successful businesspeople, run a restaurant at the International Islamic University Malaysia.

Kirana recently completed her kindergarten education and will soon begin Primary One. As a Malay child, she attended a Chinese preschool, and her parents plan to support her throughout her primary education.

In a Chinese vernacular school, most subjects are taught in Mandarin, but Muslim children like Kirana are also taught Islamic Studies (Pendidikan Islam), Malay, and English as required by the Ministry of Education.

I have known Kirana since she was very young. She was once shy and reserved, but because I am familiar with psychology and Montessori's ideas on child development, I used humour during my visits to the restaurant, which brought her joy.

Gradually, Kirana began to trust me and started joining me at my breakfast table to learn from me. Over the years, our friendship grew stronger. Kirana is now like a grandchild, a little friend, and an obedient student to me.

Upon her graduation from kindergarten, I gave her a gift with the following note:

"A Gift for Kirana"
"In celebration of her successful completion of her kindergarten education, we wish her all the best in her primary education."

Through this journey, I have watched Kirana grow into an inquisitive and confident young girl, and I look forward to seeing her continue to thrive in the years ahead.