Local Kids start Business

Most school kids who work in Britain want extra pocket money, but all around the world there are lots of children who have ot help their families or to pay for their schooling. 'Somewhere in the world' went to the Northern territories in Australia to talk to three aboriginal kids about their youth project.

Lenny Sing (14), Tim Yunapingu (13) and his sister Agnes (10) go to a community school near Darwin. The school is for aboriginal children who can't go to ordinary school because they have no birth certificates.

What is the lolly project?
It's simple. We make ice-lollies and we sell them to kids in the street in Darwin. That's near where we live. We don't have to go to school in the afternoons so we make them then.

Why did you start the project?
Our community school is free, but we have to buy our own books. The school doesn't have much money for books or anything – so we decided to make some money for our school.

Why did you choose ice-lollies?
Well, Darwin's really hot all year round. Kids in the street get very thirsty, and they need something cold. Ice-lollies are prefect. Some shops sell ice creams, but they're more expensive. Most kids don't have the money. We wanted our lollies to be cool, cheap and good.

How did you start the project?
Tim made a list of things we needed – fruit flavours, lolly sticks, iceboxes and so on. Lenny found out the prices and then he borrowed the money from the community centre. It was $50, and we have to pay it back soon.

Do you advertise?
Yes. We got our name from Olly, our possum, and Agnes designed some great adverts. They have a picture of a lolly on them, and the price. We give them to people in the street,

What do you change?
We decided to charge a low price – only 20 cents per lolly. Because they are so cheap, we need to sell lots to make a profit. Luckily, the kids like the low price and the good flavours, and they buy lots.

What do you do with your profits?
Well, we use some of it for schoolbooks and pens and paper and stuff. We give the rest to our families to help buy food.

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