

<http://www.xfresh.com/v9/articles.asp?id=6055>

Orphans grace Smart Ice Arena

by Will
william@xfresh.com



Last Saturday morning proved an exciting experience for 50 orphans from the Stepping Stones Home and the House of Joy as they were treated to a day of skating at the new **Smart Ice Arena** at the Mid Valley Exhibition Centre.

They are the first batch of beneficiaries of the **Skate with Joy project** held by Mid Valley Megamall and a few of its tenants which will allow for some 600 orphans from around Klang Valley to experience the fun of skating until the end of the rink's promotional period, 5 Nov.

The children were in for a surprise when they found themselves in the company of the famed ice-hockey team **Kuala Lumpur Cobras**. The Cobras gave a stunning hockey demonstration and spent the rest of the morning guiding and teaching the kids some basic skating maneuvers.

One particularly memorable moment for the kids was when the hockey players came together to form a long 'snake', slithering across the arena in unison. By then, some of the children have become adept at skating and took turns leading the pack.

Another scene saw the children learning the one foot snow plow, the most basic form of a brake in skating.

The Megamall has previously raised RM20,000 for Stepping Stones Home as part of their Christmas Charity programme last year. House of Joy was one of two recipients of the same charity programme in 2004, with over RM25,000 raised in total.

These homes are managed by volunteers and funded purely through private donations, receiving no government grants. Currently these two homes have a total of 163 children under their care.



NO ICE: This little girl won't be smiling if she was sitting on real ice.

The Smart Ice technology has a throng of advantages over the traditional ice rink, particularly when it comes to operating costs. But how does the Smart Ice Arena compare to a real ice rink in terms of enjoyment?

<Page Break>



SPECIAL SKATES: The 3S skates may look like roller blades, except its wheels have a metal ring around it to replicate a normal ice skate.

The Smart Ice experience

Skating on the Smart Ice Arena is supposed to be very much like skating on ice. But the types of skates you use can greatly affect your experience. You may use both traditional skates or the new 3S skates on the Smart Ice Arena.

The 3S skates have wheels with a metal ring on it to replicate traditional ice skates, allowing you to brake by doing a one foot snow plow or a T-stop like you do on ice.

The only drawback of the 3S skates is that the wheels do not create enough friction against the Smart Ice resulting in constant slipping (when pushing forward/braking), even with correct posture and well tightened skates. I wonder if it's just my particular pair...

Anyway, from the video demo on the [official site](#), the Smart Ice looks pretty convincing with traditional ice skates. The skater moved as quickly and as fluently as he would as if it was real ice.

So check out the Smart Ice Arena at the Mid Valley Exhibition Centre from now till 5 November 2006. Admission is RM 10 on weekdays and RM13 on weekends. Other Smart Ice Arenas are located at Era

Square, Seremban and Bangsar Shopping Complex.

[Go back](#)