On 12th Dec 2009, after I met up with the family, we went to The Japanese People Association. I was given the opportunity to visit the big Japanese book library there which has a lot of not easily found Japanese books and magazines. After lunch, we went to buy Christmas trees. Later in the afternoon, I went to visit their house. I played with their daughter for the rest of the day. We watched their home videos, read books and played games. At night, we had a Japanese style dinner with nabe as the main dish.

The next day, we made onigiri and other food together and went to the zoo for a picnic. The trip in the zoo taught me a lot of new words of animals in Japanese. After that, they sent me back. One the way back, I even played shiritori game with the daughter.

It was a very interesting and meaningful experience. The family was very nice and friendly. They were very interested in China and asked me quite a lot of questions about China. Through the conversation with them, I had also known better about Japan. I had tasted the real Japanese home made food and had tried to make it on my own as well. The afternoon I spent with the daughter gave me a better understanding of Japanese peoples’ daily life. Such as, how it like in kindergartens in Japan and what do Japanese kids usually do when they are free.

Throughout the 2 days, I mainly communicated with the family using Japanese. One very important thing I have learnt this time was how to make daily communication with Japanese people. I realized that I really have a lot more to learn and practice. Many of the words and phrased I had learnt in class, but when I was supposed to say it out, I always tend to forgot the correct grammar or conjugation and made a lot of mistakes. This gave me more motivation to study Japanese in the future. It was very nice for the family to try to understand my bad Japanese and always encouraging me.

In conclusion, it is a very valuable experience and if given another chance, I would definitely take part in this program again.
Figure 2: western style breakfast

Figure 3: the onigiri we made, very small though.