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Interacting: Giggs (facing camera) joining in a lively conversation with vulnerable children, including those affected by HIV/AIDS at the PT Foundation on Friday. The visit was part of the 10-year United for Unicef partnership- Photo by Bernama

Education the key to helping kids, says Giggs

EDUCATING the public on HIV/AIDS will help eliminate the stigma and allow infected children to lead a normal life, Unicef ambassador Ryan Giggs, who is a Manchester United player, said.

"Hopefully, today we can put across that message. There is no need to shun them or disown them. They are only children.

"Maybe they have different backgrounds and experiences in life but they, too, have aspirations," he told a news conference after visiting nine

youngster, who are children of sex workers, drug users, refugees and people living with HIV/AIDS, at the PT Foundation office in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Also present were two other Manchester United players, Patrice Evra and Frederico Macheda, as well as Manchester United Foundation chief executive officer John Shiels and Unicef Malaysia representative Youssouf Oumar.

Giggs described the children as

"lovely and intelligent".

Kuala Lumpur was the first stop for Manchester United in their Asian Tour 2009.

The players, led by manager Sir Alex Ferguson, had earlier arrived at the KL International Airport.

Nearly 85,000 Malaysian fans, mostly fans of the Red Devils, were at the Bukit Jalil Stadium on Saturday to watch the English Premier League champions take on the Malaysian selection. - Bernama