



News from

YOUNG FOODIES THAI UP MIKE'S NEW MENU

When Liverpool restaurateur Mike McGarvey planned to launch a new children's menu he couldn't see the point of asking his expert Asian chefs.

"They're a great team," he says, "and if I want the best Gung Pow in town with the crispiest Mee Krob then I'd look no further ... but they're all grown-ups."

So Mike cut the professionals out of the loop and went straight to the children ... "because they know what they like. What's the sense in asking an adult what a 10 year-old really enjoys?"

The fact that Mike runs Chilli Banana - a leading Thai restaurant in Lark Lane, Sefton Park - didn't put him off. He asked children who came in with customers and friends, held tasting sessions to try out the results, and came up with a children's menu that, he says, "is designed by kids, for kids."

"Don't underestimate them. They know what they're talking about – even when it comes to food from a country on the other side of the world. I've always been really impressed by the interest that young customers take in Thai food so it was natural to let them suggest what they wanted to eat here."

"We listened to what they told us, gave them tastings, and took their tips on board. So, basically, they designed this new menu. We only helped them. But every main course dish still has its roots in a traditional Thai recipe."

The main courses are all based on classic dishes – but given the all-important twist that appeals to youngsters.

For instance, the Chicken Satay Kid's Club Sandwich - chicken breast satay with peanut sauce – even comes with the bread crusts cut off.

There's a new mini-version of Pad Preowan that serves crispy chicken or catfish bites with a sweet fresh tomato and pineapple sauce, served with Jasmine or egg fried rice. And the Moo Ping Kow Neow is marinated Lancashire pork loin skewers with plum dip sauce and sticky rice.

"And don't, for a minute, think they're really dreaming of cheese burgers. Kids have got a smarter taste in food than many of us give them credit for. They're nobody's fool."

The children' menu choice of eight drinks, five main courses, and four desserts, is served through the week at £6.95.