

Frontpage: Koinobori Craft

We participate in the "Koinobori Festival" every year. Students decorate the koinobori by painting their hands with colourful paint, then printing them on the banner.

There are about 1000 Koinobori flying in the sky. Our Kinder Kids' students were cheering enthusiastically when they found the special Koinobori they made. Grow up big and strong like the Koinobori kids!



Please share
your ideas!

"Hiraku" provides useful information
and the latest news related to
English and childhood education.

- Your recent interests
- Topics you want us to cover
- New content etc etc...

If you have ideas to contribute,
please share these with us!

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Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

3



Hirakû

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Active Learning: Nurturing "Survival Skills" for the future.

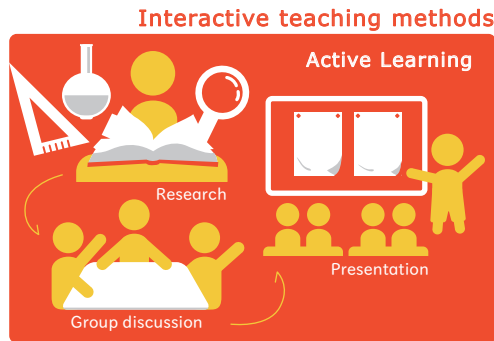


Active Learning: Nurturing "Survival Skills" for the future.

How will education change in 2020?

The Education Reform Plan 2020 is coming soon and will be implemented from next year. Many of you may have already heard that English and Computer Programming education will become mandatory. The aim of the education reform plan set out by the Ministry of Education Culture Sports Science and Technology Japan (MEXT) is to foster survival skills that are fundamental to surviving in the unpredictable future. The reform plan changes not only the curriculum but also the methods for teaching and learning. The conventional method for lesson delivery is a teacher led one-way instruction, cramming knowledge. The new education plan develops skills allowing students to express their own thoughts and work within groups, moving away from simply evaluating how much knowledge students have or how much students can memorize. The biggest aim of this education reform plan is to develop active learning (AL).

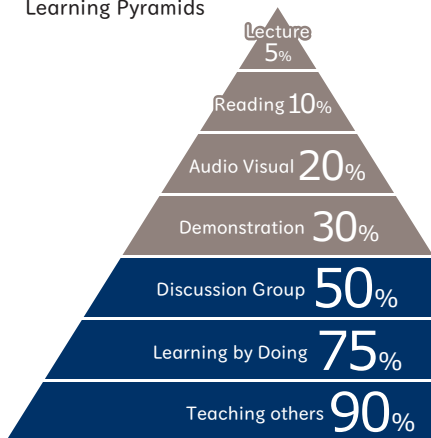
Teacher led style of delivering education.



Learning through inquiry and expressing one's own thoughts is 10 times more effective!

AL is an approach aiming to develop students' thinking ability where students participate or interact in the learning process, pro-actively researching a problem or having a discussion between themselves. Traditional teaching methods don't stimulate students' curiosity to discover more than what they are taught in the lessons or how to learn. AL also aims to encourage students to actively engage in lessons, discover how fun learning is and encourage students to keep actively learning throughout their life.

Learning Pyramids



Active Learning



Average learning retention rates are 10 times higher than traditional lectures!

Experience-based learning to instill that learning is fun!

Recently in Japan there has been increased focus on AL. Kinder Kids has recognized the value of AL for many years and our curriculum incorporates this philosophy.

It's Soft!



Pre-Class Sensory Play

We use slime or playdough to stimulate their senses through sight, touch and smell. We also encourage them to verbalize what they feel: activating their brain and improving their English vocabulary.



Kinder Class

As students experience more, they learn more.

In these lessons about the environment, we discuss what we can do to protect and preserve our natural resources. We consider what we can do as individuals and ask students to bring reusable resources to schools, classify their material and then take them to a recycling centre. Through these practical experiences, students become more aware of and more interested in the environment.

I sorted the garbage!

At Kinder Kids, we develop students' thinking by encouraging students to be curious, life long learners.

Feature Story



Interview

Osaka

School

Osaka School Manager
Yoko Sakamoto



Staff Spotlight



Interview

Ashiya

School

Ashiya School Manager
Naoko Kamon



Osaka School is a very lively school as we have the largest number of students in any of the Kinder Kids schools. I think it's a real benefit for Osaka School that teachers and students who have different experiences and backgrounds can learn in one place. We really value diversity in childcare.

As we encourage students to respect each other's differences, I think our students have high self-esteem. Students who used to be shy become social butterflies before we know it! I was made to feel very proud recently when talking to a teacher from an elementary school where one of our graduates attends. The teacher told me that the first one to talk to and try to take care of a recent transfer student was our

Kinder Kids graduate. In Osaka school, we often hear about Kinder Kids graduates so I feel like we are still very much connected to them. I appreciate that parents of graduates or current students are very cooperative and I hope that I can provide a place that parents feel free to talk about their concerns regarding their child.

I find that teachers and staff are very affectionate and enthusiastic at Ashiya School. We always treat each student with kindness and sincerity. The school is like one big family, so students are very close and have strong relationships with one another regardless of their age. Recently a student was crying when we had a group activity so another student spontaneously supported them by talking to and encouraging her. It surprised us and we were moved because it happened without any teacher direction. It often happens that students will help each other out without being told what to do.

When we welcome new students who transfer or attend Summer School, students in Ashiya talk to them in a very open and friendly manner so those students have no time to be shy. After our students graduate we hope they will come back and visit anytime and feel as if they never left.

HP



Facebook



4-33 Nishiki-cho, Kita-ku,
Osaka-shi, Osaka

HP



Facebook



11-24 Kusunoki-cho,
Ashiya-shi, Hyogo



A bullet train driver!
because it's so cool!

Work in an ice cream shop!
because I love ice cream!

A Teacher!
because I love my teacher!

A firefighter!
because it's so cool!

A police officer!
they're so cool and they can catch bad people!

We asked the kids in

Osaka School and Ashiya School!

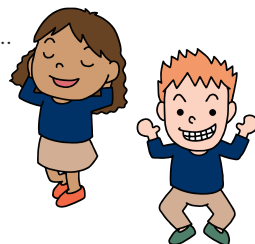
DA PUMP!
Issa is cool!

A police officer!

What do you want to be when you grow up?

A hairdresser!
they make everybody pretty!

Want to be...



A Princess!
Rapunzel!

Work in a ramen shop!
because I love ramen!

Live until 100 years old!

A doctor!





Interview

English in my future 1

The 4th Graduating Class from Kinder Kids
Osaka School - N. O.
We asked Ayano about the volunteer program in Canada School and her childhood memories.

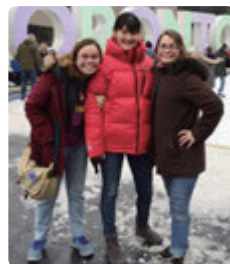
I have fond memories with Kinder Kids and always wondered if there was a way I could interact with Kinder Kids again. Then, one day, my Kinder Kids friend's mother told me about Canada School. I called Kinder Kids right away to find out more about it. I took part in the volunteer program in Canada for three weeks.

I had fulfilling days at the school as I helped my host mother's baby class, took care of babies, and played with students from the kinder classes in the gym, and even helped the older children with their journal writing. What I remember most of all as a student at Kinder Kids is my Christmas Concert. I always liked to stand out, and I was very excited, so I chose a role that had the most lines and a long script. I also remember that I went to lots of different places on excursions.

After I graduated I didn't stop studying English, I went to Saturday Class (before it became known as Grad Club) and Summer Camp. English is a global language so it can expand my opportunities to meet other people that enrich my life. I think learning English in Kinder Kids made me confident when using English and enhanced my future possibilities.

Also, it was a turning point for me when I learned about Malala Yousafzai, who sparked my interest in child labour. I was awarded first place in the Osaka City Speech Contest with a speech about child labour when I was a 1st-grade high school student.

Now I'm a college student (since this spring) and I'm interested in pursuing a job where I can teach children in developing countries how important education is.



Overseas School Report

A School that spreads the Japanese spirit of education around the world

Canada School Director
Stephanie Winter



We've now reached our 5th anniversary since opening as the first overseas Kinder Kids school. I'm delighted that our school has grown and is now so popular that there are hundreds of families on our waiting list. I'm proud that this success has led the way and created opportunities to open Kinder Kids schools in Hawaii and Singapore.

Canada School holds a number of events over the year including the Canada Day celebration, Halloween, a Sports Festival held in March and the Summer Concert (the equivalent of the Christmas Concert in Japan). The children recently took part in their Sports Festival events and, as in Japan, the eldest grade SK (K3) performed a kumitaiso routine, wowing the watching families.

We have been delighted to have a number of overseas transfer students from across Japan spend a few weeks learning and playing together with our Canadian students and teachers. It is a fantastic opportunity to see a new country and a new culture in comfortable and familiar surroundings.

We hope all of our students in the Kinder Kids family will benefit from our support, come to visit us and continue to explore the world!



Our success blends elements of Japanese early childhood education, such as Music Class and Kumitaiso with international literacy and a global vision.



I want to work somewhere related to international peace in the future.

