

Now on SALE

# Phonics Character Goods

Character Strap

Length approx. 10cm Width 2cm

200yen (including tax)

10 Characters



Busy Bee



Cool Caterpillar



Hungry Hippo



Incredible Iguana



Juggling Jellyfish



Mighty Moose



Pilot Penguin



Running Rabbit



Singing Snake



Zippy Zebra



Character Mini Pouch

Length 16cm x Width 10cm

400yen (including tax)



Kinder+

Available on "Kinder +" !

Hirakû

Published in January 2020 Vol.7  
Next issue is planned to come at the end of March

Kinder Kids Inc.  
TEL : 06-6135-0150  
Pulala Tenma 2F, 3-1 Ikeda-cho, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka. 530-0033  
www.kinderkids.com

Expanding future possibilities

# Hirakû

7



Let's think about children's dietary education!

Staff Spotlight Message from Grad Club: 2019→2020

Get to know Eiken! When is the best time to start?

Tips from an Eiken Grade 1 Successful Examinee!

Japanese Spirit with an International Future. Kinder Kids inc.





## Let's talk about dietary education for children!

Are you familiar with the "Shokuiku Basics Act"? A law regarding food and nutrition education.

This law was enacted in 2005. The law was inspired by a variety of food and nutrition issues such as a lack of proper concern for food health, an increase in irregular and nutritionally unbalanced meals, and over-dependency on food from abroad. "Shokuiku" is important to all ages as "you are what you eat" but is especially important to the development of children's body and mind. The food children eat significantly affects the function of their brain.

Young children cannot choose what they eat so the food we serve at home or school must be selected carefully.



## What do we do at our school?

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) stipulates there should be "Promotion of Shokuiku in Schools and Childcare Centers" aiming to help children adopt healthy dietary habits and nurture growth.

At Kinder Kids we encourage children to;

exercise enough so they develop an appetite which makes meals taste better.

develop curiosity about food through growing vegetables.

become familiar with many different kinds of foods through cooking lessons found in our Theme workbooks which are connected to the seasons and topics of study.

learn specifically about nutrition as a topic in their Theme workbook and understand the importance of food.

be part of an environment where children discover that eating is fun.



## Feature Story

## What can we do at home?

- Eat at the same time every day.
- Maintain a good 'early to bed, early to rise' habit and avoid skipping breakfast.
- Shop together with your child and choose what to eat together.
- Talk about the nutrition in the ingredients used while having a meal.
- Eat in groups and enjoy conversation during mealtime.
- Cook as a family.
- Talk about seasonal foods.
- Teach them how to use a spoon, fork and chopsticks.



## Preparing to use chopsticks

### Step 1



"Grasping a spoon with your palm"

When a child starts using a spoon instead of using their hands, they tend to grasp the spoon handle and bring it to their mouth to eat, with their fingers facing down.

### Step 2



"Hold from the bottom"

When children become comfortable using a spoon, try to flip their hands over so that their fist is facing the floor.

### Step 3



"Holding a spoon like a pencil"

Next try to hold it like using the ends of the fingers, like they would hold a pencil.

Chief Nursery Teacher  
Hiroko Takase



Many parents introduce chopsticks or practice chopsticks to their child early, before they know how to use a spoon properly. Without knowing the proper way to use a spoon, it is more difficult to learn how to use chopsticks properly. Let's start with teaching children how to hold a spoon correctly and then move on to using training chopsticks.



# Feature Story



## “Shokuiku” × “Theme Learning”

”Theme workbooks” are introduced from K1 and continued through to K3. The theme contents are designed to gradually build knowledge and vocabulary about a topic as they progress through their years at Kinder Kids. Students enjoy learning new words and actively engaging in all sorts of fun topics using their 5 senses. For example, if a theme topic is “Food and Nutrition”, children first learn the names of food items, then where they are grown, later how they are produced and finally the nutritional benefits of different food groups. We always make our lessons interesting to stimulate curiosity, for example, using tools that children are familiar with and experimenting with using them in an unconventional way. Showing how one thing can become something else with a little imagination keeps them engaged and encourages innovation.

### K2

#### Knowledge of different kinds of foods

After food is swallowed what will it do for our body? Students learn that food provides vital nutrients for survival, and helps the body function and stay healthy. Also, they learn foods are classified into different kinds of food groups, and the importance of a balanced diet.



Let's talk more about food at home with our children!



#### Knowledge of different kinds of foods

### K1

Meat, fish, vegetables, fruit... all foods we eat everyday. Where do they come from? Children learn about the journey food takes before ending up on their plates, and about the many people who work hard so that we can eat every day.



Theme Learning Nutrition

### K3

#### Food's Journey through the body

What kind of journey will the food that you just ate go on? We teach students step by step through the body's digestive system using hands on tactile activities to embed understanding. Children learn about their body, how it functions, and learn about the importance of maintaining it for a healthy life.

The series of learning opportunities helps foster interest in food and promotes the development of a healthy body and mind.



Hands on learning





Interview  
**Yokohama**

**School**  
 Yokohama School Manager  
 Tomoko Nakai



**Staff  
 Spotlight**



Interview  
**Kyoto**

**School**  
 Kyoto School Manager  
 Hiromi Yoshinaga



This is the first Kinder Kids school established in the Kanto area. Yokohama School is located in a shopping complex called "Minatomirai" that is easy to access by car or train. There is a spacious park just across the street from the school with lots of trees that change color with the seasons. Children play in the open space as often as possible. I am very grateful that our school is in this location. We plant flowers around the building with people from this area. We want to make sure our surroundings are clean and beautiful.

When I asked Yokohama school staff "what do you like about this school?" They overwhelmingly said "we love that this school is so homey!" Our staff has built a strong team ethic that helps them to solve problems effectively.

I would like to continue in providing high quality English education with our staff who can bring out the best in all of our students.

Japanese education has various issues to deal with and the quality of English education is one of them. Japanese English proficiency is falling further behind other Asian countries. If a child starts learning English before three years old they will be able to acquire it more naturally as their speech and language development builds rapidly



and they will have an excellent foundation to build on.

The ability to speak English unlocks so many opportunities for our children's future! We are here to help students' English improvement throughout their childhood, even after graduating from Kinder Kids!



**A moment to cherish**

**Please share a special memory that you have with us.**

I heard from some parents who said that Kinder Kids' graduates tend to be successful students in their elementary schools. They like to take on leadership and are not afraid of speaking in front of people!

Also, It makes me very happy to see the students' development. Students once enrolled as babies are now all grown up, and not just their bodies but their English abilities as well!

Kinder Kids Kyoto has been here for 10 years now since it's opening in 2010. We are surrounded by historical landmarks such as Nijo Castle and Jinsenen. We are happy to have a school in this ancient city which is rich in culture and allows us to enjoy the four beautiful seasons.

We have a spacious entrance hall letting in lots of sunlight through the big windows. It has a relaxing atmosphere but we can always hear the staff and children's cheerful voices, musical instruments or children's singing - that makes this a lively place.

In the school yard children can enjoy spinning on the iron bar or climbing on the play equipment. We also grow seasonal flowers or vegetables outside which shows us the journey from seed to harvest.

There is also a rooftop area with artificial grass where children can play when it's sunny and enjoy water play in the summer. All these facilities help children to develop their curiosity and their creativity.

Like other Kinder Kids schools, we have a structure that allows us to continuously provide a safe and nurturing environment and English education from baby to post-graduation. Now there are about 100 students here from baby class to K3! From the evening, our Grad Club students return to their kindergarten and continue building their



English skills and catching up with their classmates and teachers.

Observing children at the school every day, I find that the more love children receive from their family or teachers, the more trust they have in relationships, making them more confident in building relationships with other people. Through various activities we communicate openly together, fostering the 'Japanese Spirit', promoting English skills and growing wiser together.

**A moment to cherish**

**Please share a special memory that you have with us.**

It makes me happy to work in the office, I get to hear "thank you" from all the classes a lot!

Our K2 class was playing imaginatively using a bakery shop and a little baker was trying to sell the bread to a teacher. The child handed the bread to the teacher and said "please try this bread! this bread is made with lots of love!"

We were delighted by those warm words coming from the imaginary play world. The teacher was touched so gave the child a big hug, saying "thank you so much!"

HP



Facebook



2F Filmee, 5-3-1 Minatomirai,  
 Nishi-ku, Yokohama-shi,  
 Kanagawa



HP



Facebook



102 Nishinokyo,  
 Kobori-cho, Nakagyo-ku,  
 Kyoto-shi, Kyoto



Understand when is the best time to start!



Eiken Class  
Term dates and application period

- Term 1: Apr. to Jun. **Apply Now!**
  - Term 2: Aug. to Oct.
  - Term 3: Nov. to Feb.
- Each term has 8 to 9 classes

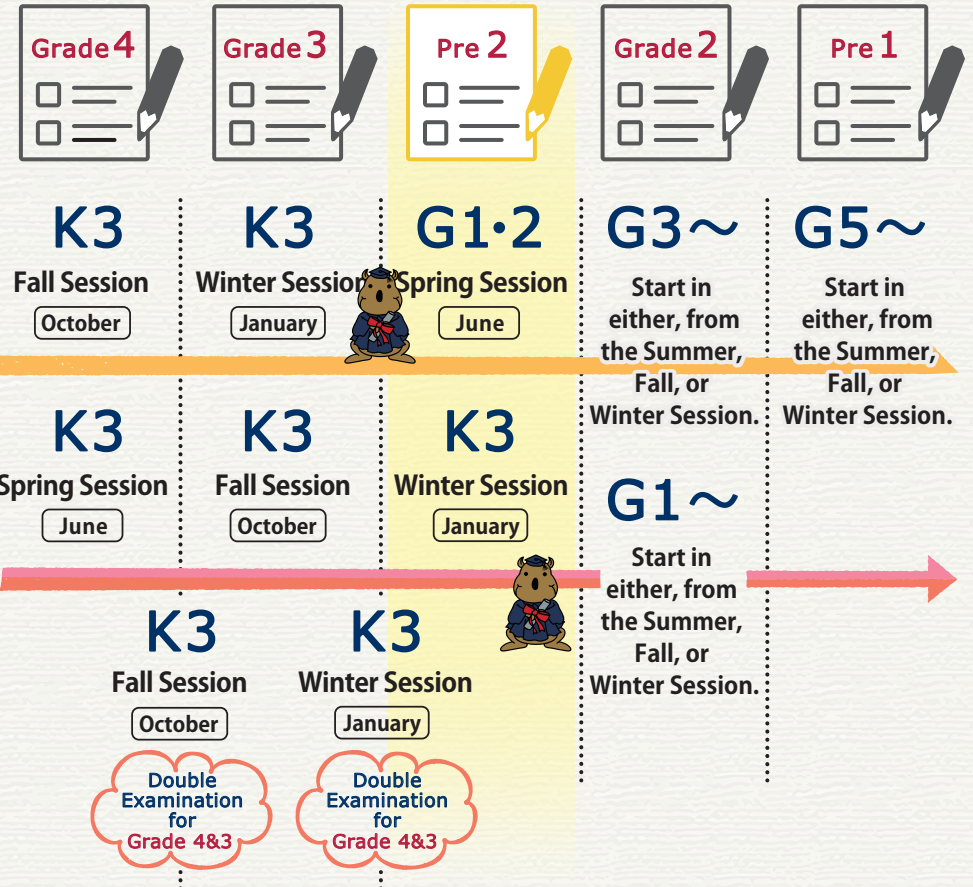
For details go to "Kinder +" or "Grad +"



"When should my child start taking the Eiken test?" is a common question among many parents. "I want to take the Eiken test in the future but I don't know when the best time is to start ..." "I don't want to waste time and money on a challenging Eiken test that is too difficult for their age" Here is the solution to these concerns.

What level do you aim to be at? And when?

Kinder Kids is currently accepting applications for the 2020 Term 1 Eiken course! You can judge the age-appropriate Eiken grade from the chart below. Find out when your Eiken test is going to be and apply for the Eiken course to prepare!



I want to aim for passing Pre 2 by the 3rd grade in elementary school!

START

I want to aim for passing Pre 2 by the time I graduate Kinder Kids!

If you aim at Grade 4, you can prepare at home. *It is very important to know what the Eiken test is like.*

I want to take Eiken Grade 4 class.



We recommend that you begin taking Eiken from Grade 4! By starting from Grade 4, students can become familiar with the Eiken test. Celebrate when they pass the test! It will motivate them to go for the next Eiken test in a higher grade!

Upper Grade Eiken tests require a teenager's level of knowledge about general social situations. For young children or pre-teen examinees, not having such knowledge will be a handicap. Knowing how long the test is or the appropriate age to take a certain grade will have a direct impact on the success of your child. Learn more about the grade you aim at through the information website called "For Kids" available on the Eiken association website.



## Tips from a successful Eiken Grade 1 Examinee!



Our successful examinee is currently a high school grade 2 student who graduated Kinder Kids Toyonaka School as part of their 8th graduating class.

After graduating Kinder Kids, she went to a public elementary school and junior high school, then moved up to Senri International School of Kwansai Gakuin High School. While she fully enjoys her school life, being busy with studying, overseas study, and volunteer activities, she passed Eiken Grade 1 in October 2019.

### — Please tell us about Eiken tests you took in the past.

I passed grade 3 when I was in grade 3 at my elementary school, and passed grade Pre 2 and Grade 2 when I was in grade 4 at my elementary school. When I was in grade 3 in my junior high school, I passed pre 1. Then, I passed Grade 1 last October when I was a grade 2 high school student.

### — How did you study for Grade Pre 1 or Grade 1?

I studied with workbooks for Grade Pre 1 or Grade 1 and I listened to the News in English more than I normally would.

### — What workbooks do you recommend?

I recommend “7 days-complete workbook by Obunsha” and “Yumetan”. “Yumetan” has a good balance of content and it was not too easy or difficult.

### — Which form of study did you feel was most worthwhile?

Writing practice by writing a long essay about a certain theme and listening practice.

My English teacher tells me what theme I should practice writing about.

### — How was the second stage (interview) for the Grade 1 test?

I picked a theme “Religion and Media” from five themes that were presented. I made a statement about the theme and an interviewer asked me some questions about it. I remembered that I was nervous about making a statement which was off topic.

### — What do you want to tell students who are aiming to pass Grade 1?

How much you are exposed to English on a daily basis is important. You can find many rich English study resources on Youtube. Find your favorite English videos and watch them for fun. Watching English videos without subtitles that you can enjoy can improve your English skills without feeling like you are studying! Good luck in your test!

It seems like using Youtube to increase exposure to current social problems in English helped her in the second session of the interview. It made it clear that being always curious about what is going on in the world and having an opinion about it is an important factor for passing the Eiken test.

## Message from Andy

2019 → 2020



Grad Club  
Andy Usher

As Kinder Kids approaches its twentieth anniversary we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on another fun and exciting year for those students who stay as part of the Kinder Kids family through their Grad Club membership. At the start of this school year, April 2019, we were very excited to welcome back all of our students and welcome all of our new members who joined after graduating K3.

The summer of 2019 was the tenth anniversary of our Australia tour and we decided to try a new location. With our largest ever group of students from Kansai, Kanto and Nagoya we headed to the Sunshine coast for a truly fantastic trip. Not only did the students get to experience living and studying in Australia, they also got taught how to surf, fed kangaroos and had the opportunity to hold a koala.

Last summer, Grad Club also introduced a new opportunity for some of our older students. For the first time, students were given the chance to join our volunteer program and visit our Kinder Kids charity school in Cambodia. Another highlight of this past year was the Grad Club speech contests.

To see students writing, learning and delivering speeches in their second language is always a delight.

2019 was another proud year for all of us involved and we would like to thank every one of our members for making every week and every event a memorable one.

Andy Usher

You can see all of the Grad Club's activity on our Facebook page!



2020  
New program!  
Summer Camp in Okinawa ★

We will update the details on the Grad Club website as soon as it is ready! Stay tuned!

Date : July 27th - 31st  
\*schedule may change participants: G2-3

