

Let's make a 4-panel cartoon  
Examples of quotes

1. Hello!
2. Hello, Busy Bee!
3. Oh, she's busy...
4. Let's see why she's busy!
5. We can help!

We look forward to  
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



Hirakû

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Does your child use the internet and smartphone appropriately?

Staff Spotlight Kids living around the world Picture Diary Contest 2020

New school term's Message Let's make a 4-panel cartoon



Does your child use the internet and smartphone appropriately?

Children are getting more exposure to information devices in their daily lives and studies. Giving children the ability to use it effectively without being distracted by the fun of the moment or the immense amount of information right in front of them.

## Children & Netsafety

In order for this generation to live in an instantaneous information society, it is necessary for families to improve information literacy and provide appropriate support for their children as they grow up. We will introduce the basic points on how to use the Internet safely and the impact of smartphones on children's academic performance.

### How to use the Internet safely

- Confirm that the URL starts with https

\* This can be checked in the URL field of the browser

https is a more secure Internet Protocol than http, and this reduces the risk of harm

- Check "About Us (operating company)" in the website to confirm that the website is not fake

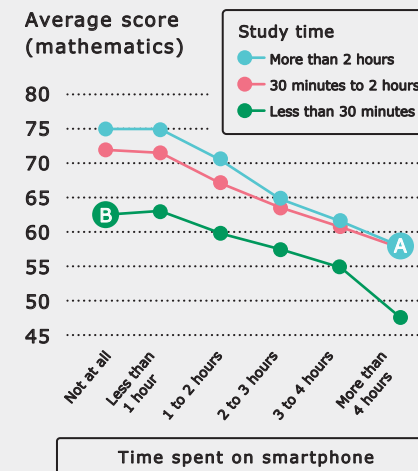
- When your child uses the Internet set up a filtering system

Expand the range of websites your child can access gradually as they grow up



## Smartphones and Academic Achievement

In recent years, research by neuroscientists has revealed a correlation between the amount of time spent on smartphones and academic performance. As you can see in the figure on the right, the longer the time spent on the smartphone, the lower the average score, and the average score **A** of "children who study for more than 2 hours but use their smartphone for more than 4 hours" is lower than the average score **B** of "children who study for less than 30 minutes but do not use their smartphone". This result tells us that it is strongly recommended that children use their smartphones for no more than **one hour a day** for whatever reason. Since there are some applications on smartphones that are useful for learning, it is important to start thinking about how to interact with smartphones at home so that children can learn how to use them in a moderate and useful way.



Project on the Scientific Study of the Motivation to Learn  
Tohoku University and Sendai City Board of Education  
Based on the results of detailed analysis of the Sendai City Standardized Achievement Test for elementary school 5th grade and junior high school 3rd year students

### Consider your family's approach to browsing the net!

Children grow up watching the adults around them, so it is important for everyone in the family to be careful not to get too involved with the Internet. Don't leave your child alone with a smartphone or rely too much on "smartphone babysitting". Talk with your child about what they are watching or whether they have or have not accessed other unexpected websites by accident. Enjoy the time together.

Childcare Department Manager  
Hiroko Takase



- Decide how long your child is allowed to use their smartphone  
Up to \_\_\_ hours a day Until \_\_\_ p.m. (in the evening)
- Decide where your child uses their smartphone Place \_\_\_\_\_





Interview

# Dojima

## School

Dojima School Manager  
Mayumi Iwasaki



In this issue, we will introduce "Kinder Kids International Academies" 2 brand new schools

It has been one amazing year since our school opened! We worked very hard in collaboration with Tennoji Yuhigaoka School, which opened at the same time in Osaka City. We re-examined, reviewed and rethought how to deliver our services in a new way to adapt to the differing needs of families and offer a new brand of services. Drawing upon 20 years of experience, using the wisdom and ideas of experienced senior staff at Kinder Kids we built a new model and filled our school with the pride and love of our staff members. All of our staff are highly motivated, positive, fun, and friendly. Whenever there is a problem or when someone is in trouble, regardless of their individual role or responsibilities, they first think of what they can do to help and cooperate with each other. This is our daily standard. I feel that their considerate team spirit has created an environment that allows us to carefully watch over each child, to provide meticulous childcare. Since the opening of the school, we have continued to devise ways to provide care and education that support each child in our school to reach their full potential. One of our major projects is to provide a subject-based lesson. The purpose of this system is to allow teachers to use their expertise, special skills, and excellent sense to develop unique lessons. For example, a teacher who loves drawing and is good at it will be able to give children better art lessons and in greater depth. When the teacher draws inspirational pictures all over the



classroom windows, the bright eyes of the children show they are motivated to start drawing their own. The children are always willing to try everything. Our staff are just as enthusiastic as the children!

### What is rewarding about my job?

A child who was shy started to talk a lot! A child successfully using the toilet for the first time! A child spoke English for the first time! etc. It's a great moment to be able to see and feel their growth and share that joy with their parents.

HP



Facebook



1-1-51-1F Fukushima,  
Fukushima-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka

# Staff Spotlight

Interview

# Tennoji Yuhigaoka

## School

Tennoji Yuhigaoka School Manager  
Makiko Takahashi



Academy  
Newly Open!

The opening year of the school has been full of many new things. Blending new staff members into a team has been a challenge. However, I was greatly encouraged to see all of our staff working very hard, staying positive and flexible as they believed "it is time to put all our efforts into this!" even as they faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After all, our school is one of the largest schools in Kinder Kids. We have a playground, a theater room, a library, a kitchen, a dining area, and even a large gymnasium where the Grad Club children can exercise with all their might. We make full use of these extensive facilities every day with all our classes. I can hear the laughter and English conversation of the children and teachers from everywhere in the school.

As a manager, I try to observe the activities as often and as closely as I can because it is important for me to be able to give parents an easy to understand explanation about what their children are learning and how it helps them grow. At the same time, it is also important for us to let parents know that our teachers are paying close attention to their children and always thinking about them. Being exposed to different cultures at an early age offers many opportunities for learning, not just for language acquisition.



Kinder Kids has many methods and teachers to help make our children's spirits shine brightly. I hope that our school will always be a place that makes children, parents, and teachers smile when they come to school.

### What is rewarding about my job?

Watching over the growth of the children A child who was wearing nappies and waddling around is now reading a picture book to their younger friends. After they enter elementary school, they start to tell us at Grad Club about their new school life. And when their younger siblings enter Kinder Kids, we feel like they too are part of our family. I feel fulfillment when the number of "Our Children" continues to increase and makes Our Family Tree grow.

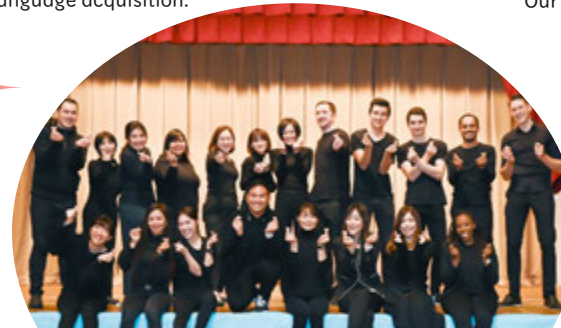
HP



Facebook

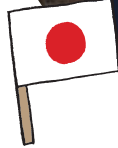
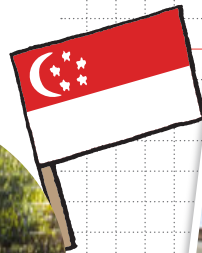


1-2-22 Karasugatsuji,  
Tennoji-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka



# Kids living around the world 3

This time, we interviewed the family of S.N-chan who graduated from Kinder Kids last year. S-chan's father was working in Singapore apart from the family. While the family was living apart, the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to travel between the two countries. This is one of the reasons why the family decided to move to Singapore where their father lives.



*From Japan To Singapore!*



S-chan is learning Chinese and will soon leave Japan! She is looking forward to her new life in Singapore!



*Kinder Kids Christmas Party*

*Kinder Kids Craft*

### — What are you looking forward to in Singapore?

Considering the importance of spending time together as a family, we decided our entire family should move to Singapore, where her father is now working. We hope that this experience will be a good opportunity for our children to learn another language. She has always been shy in front of others and reserved in expressing her opinions, but as she has encountered various new experiences, she has gradually gained confidence and has the strength to tackle new things with a positive attitude. We want to enjoy exploring this new place with our children and giving them more chances to try new things by going abroad.

### — Please tell us about the Chinese lessons that S-chan is taking to prepare for life in Singapore.

She became interested in Chinese and started learning it because her father is working in Singapore. In Singapore, Chinese is used as much as English, so she is very motivated to learn Chinese because “she wants to go there and try to speak Chinese”. The lessons are taught in English to learn Chinese. She decided to take the one-on-one course. While maintaining her English skill, she can feel the connection between English and Chinese expressions. We believe that it is a fulfilling language learning experience for her. The teacher said that she is learning Chinese quickly. Perhaps it is because she has been exposed to two languages since her early childhood.

### — What kind of adult do you want her to grow up to be?

We believe, thanks to the global educational environment, the teachers from different countries and unique curriculum has helped her to develop a foundation for global communication. Also, in the prep class for elementary school entrance exams, the teachers have closely and passionately encouraged and helped nurture her behavior, manners, and intellectual development. We hope that she will continue to develop her ability to communicate with people from all over the world and grow up to be a person who can treat others with kindness yet always keeping in mind the culture and spirit that is uniquely Japanese.

### — How does she continue to learn English in addition to her school work?

She goes to Grad Club three times a week and Chinese lessons in English once a week. Regardless if it is a lesson or a hobby, we can see her growing up because once she decides to do something, she pushes herself very hard. She usually listens to Western music and reads Western books in English. She is now into Japanese anime and watches it a lot, but that doesn't stop her from speaking English, and when she hears English, she naturally switches to use English. We believe it is because of the time she has spent at Kinder Kids.



Our daughter entered Kinder Kids from the Nursery class. We are very happy with the excellent curriculum and the education she received from Kinder Kids. She has friends from Kinder Kids at school where she will enroll in, the teacher told us that the graduates of Kinder Kids are all very good at English. We are very happy that we decided to send our daughter to Kinder Kids.



Hirakū

They plan to live in Singapore for one year. When choosing a school in Singapore, they carefully selected the curriculum and school environment that even if S-chan was not used to living in Singapore, would allow her to enjoy school. This is the first overseas study experience for their daughter who will be a second grade elementary school student. We are sure she will have a wonderful experience in that country where many different ethnic groups are gathered and a lot of attractions come together!





# KINDER KIDS Picture Diary Contest 2020

## Judging Criteria

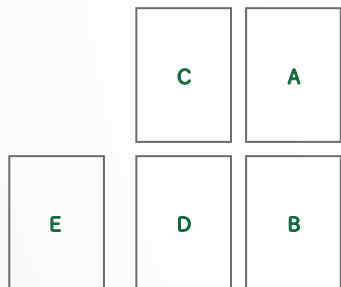
- ▶ The honest feelings of the children can be felt from the text
- ▶ The child has clearly expressed what was felt through that experiences
- ▶ The picture diary makes others want to meet the child who wrote it

Picture diaries from Kinder Kids have been selected for the “Kagayaki Prize” and the “Habataki Prize” from the entries submitted to the “SAE Kirara Picture Diary Composition Contest 2020”. Here, we introduce the five works that received the “Kagayaki Prize”, which exhibited a high level of accomplishment. These are diary entries and dynamically drawn scenes that honestly express one's feelings from a child's point of view. We can feel that each child's individuality and development of a rich mind is nurtured in the course of daily activities. The SAE Kirara Picture Diary Contest (sponsored by the Tokyo Children's Education Center) will end in 2020, so we are planning to hold a Kinder Kids sponsored contest next school year!

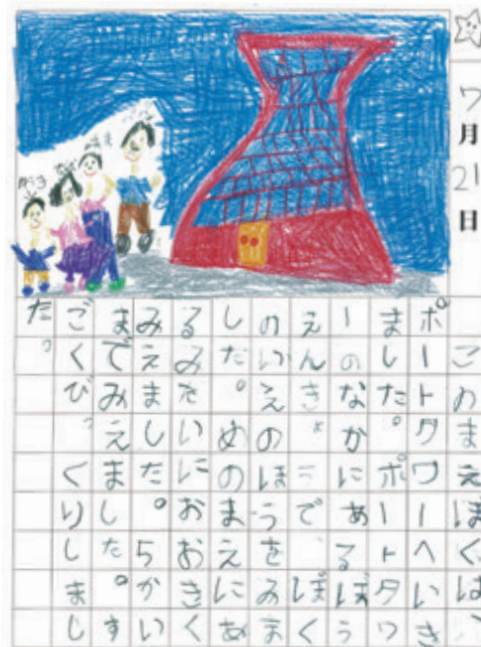


Kumiko Shinoda,  
Senior Manager, Examination  
and Learning Division

### ▼ Layout of the works



- A Y.O • Sakai School • K3
- B S.S • Nishinomiya School • K3
- C Y.M • Kobe Seaside School • K3
- D T.K • Yokohama School • K3
- E Y.W • Nagoya School • K3



# KINDER KIDS 2021

*New school term's Message*



Kinder Kids Principal Wayne Kim

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us.

Kinder Kids has adapted to ensure that our education quality is continually improving. We will launch our new online program for our Baby Class, and for our K1 students in April. We have many fun new programs for our 2021 year. We are hoping that we can one day be able to travel freely and safely. The children from Canada and Hawaii will be so excited to have visitors from Japan. With Singapore, it was quite unfortunate that we did not have a chance to open the school there due to covid 19. It has been so

long that we have decided to not open the school.

We will continue to explore and create new schools for our children to be able to meet students from all over the world.

All of you worked so hard and made your parents, teachers, and staff very proud of you. We are very excited to see all of you back next April, where you will challenge yourselves in your new grades. For the K3 children, going to your elementary schools must be exciting.

Please keep in contact with your friends, and please come back to visit us.



Busy Bee



Yawning Yak

Let's make a four-panel comic

By PHONICS GARDEN

Four-panel cartoon is filled with unique and charming Phonics Garden's friends. This time, the story is about hard-working Busy Bee, easy-going Yawning Yak, and attentive Elegant Elephant. Put the five sentences below in the correct box to complete the four-panel cartoon!

Busy : いそがしい

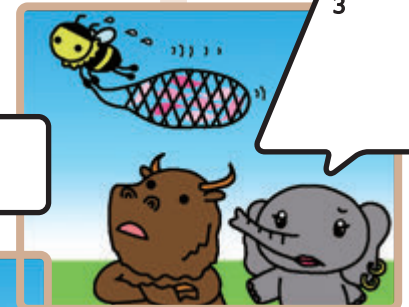


Elegant Elephant



1

2



3



4

5



"Hello!" "Let's see why she's busy!"

"Oh, she's busy..." "Hello, Busy Bee!"

"We can help!"

Reference the back cover for dialogue examples