

Let's make a four-panel comic
Examples of quotes

1. Wow! It's windy today!
2. The perfect day for flying our kites!
3. I like flying a kite. It's so much fun, isn't it?
4. Let's spin our tops over there later!

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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Chores and Zest for Living **New Phonics Characters**
Grad Club Message Let's make a four-panel comic

Chores and Zest for Living



The Courses of Study renewed in 2009 include the concept of "Zest for Living", and one of the goals is "being responsible for doing their chores at home". In this article, it focuses on household chores for children.



It is very important for children to be given the responsibility for doing chores, which will help them acquire necessary life skills.

Children & Chores

Zest for Living Nurtured by Chores

It is said that various skills can be acquired by doing household chores. Here are some examples.

Increasing Creativity

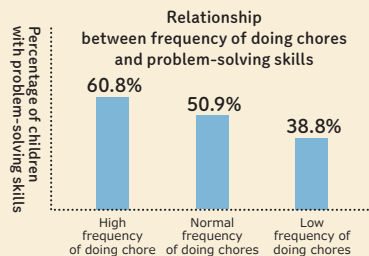
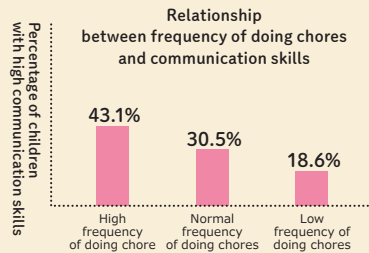
Children will realize how much time and effort will be required for doing chores only after they have actually done it. Through such experiences, they will learn the necessity of ingenuity and how to be more efficient.

Gaining Non-cognitive skills

Non-cognitive skills cannot be measured numerically, not like IQ or tests, and cover a range of abilities such as "Perseverance" and "Social Skills". "Perseverance" has been a topic picked up on TED and other media as an essential ability for successors.

Increasing Self-esteem

"Helping others" helps us feel that we are contributing to our family and society, which will help increase our self-esteem, motivate us to take on various new challenges, and grow mentally as well.



Based on the "Children's Life Skills Survey" Summary Report released by the Independent Administrative Agency, National Institution For Youth Education

Feature Story

Doing Chores in Foreign Countries

Many Japanese may have a negative image about children doing chores. Some people may think that the time for doing chores should be used for studying instead. However, in other countries such as Australia, parents tend to think that doing chores are more important than studying.

According to a parent survey "Do you let your child do chores at home?"; parents in the U.S, China, etc. are more likely to let their child do chores than in Japan. Some countries value self-reliance, such national characteristics may affect how they think about children doing chores.



Examples of Education for Household Chores

Here are some examples of what kind of chores are appropriate for children.

There are many benefits of children doing chores. Will you give your child the opportunity to do chores at home?



Laundry

It may be difficult for children to actually do the laundry using detergent, so let's start just folding the laundry. It is highly recommended as it is easy to do together with their parents. Starting with easy-to-fold items such as towels. Once they get used to folding towels, they can move on to other things such as socks and jackets.



Cooking

Cooking is a fun activity for children to do because it stimulates the five senses, especially the sense of smell. Starting with simple tasks such as stirring soup or frying. Be sure to keep an eye on your child while they are cooking to avoid the risk of burns, etc.



Cleaning the house entrance

There are many tasks to be done such as lining up shoes, wiping down shelves, etc. These involve a lot of up and down movements, which will help your child develop their motor skills. The habit of lining up shoes will also be useful when they visit their friends' houses.



New Phonics Characters!



In 2022, we will introduce some new Kinder Kids Phonics Characters. We would like to welcome the new characters!

New Characters

Very awkward

Wobbly Walrus

Full of energy

Noisy Newt

Cheerful and Funny

Funny Frog

Shy

Quiet Quokka

Learning to Share

Greedy Gorilla

Smart and Active

Youthful Yak

Sensitive

Upset Umbrellabird

Here come our new friends!



From this April, we'll be streaming the new Phonics Island song for free on Kinder+. To get to know the characters better, take a peek into the magnificent and diverse world on the new Phonics Island (the new book available for sale).

Let's say "Thank you" and "Goodbye" to all the characters who will be replaced by new characters in this renewal.

Waving Wizard

Noisy Neighbours

Frozen Frog

Grumpy Ghost

Yawning Yak

Untidy Umpire

Quick Quokka

Thank you and Good-Bye our friends!

From the 2022-2023 school year, you can see the new characters at school, in books and on videos. It will also be another great year for Kinder Kids' Phonics Characters. Maybe you will see a smile from Angry Apple... Nooooo, I don't think we will.



New characters for the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar!

The 2022-2023 School Year Calendar will feature the newly designed characters. If you purchase the Calendar, there are many wonderful things waiting for you!



Grad Club Message

2021 → 2022

Grad Club Manager
Andy Asher



2021 has been a very challenging year for the Grad Club. We planned new events and unfortunately we could not hold all of them, we could only do some of them.

The Grad Club was very happy to see many Grad members participating at the summer events. Cruises in Kobe and the Dolphin Swim in Kagawa must have made many enjoyable memories for the children. The Summer Camp, the Speech Contest, and the Christmas Party held at a luxurious venue were also wonderful.

We will do our best to make your Grad Club experience a special one. We wish you a happy and safe 2022, and look forward to having many more new experiences together. Wishing you all a year full of happiness in 2022.

Andy Usher

12/11-12
at
Universal Studio Japan

Kansai

Christmas Party
by Grad Club

12/18
at
PIZZA SALVATORE CUOMO & GRILL KAWASAKI

Kanto

In the past few years, many of our events have been canceled, but this year we were able to end the year with a special Christmas Party. Listening to the stories of children, seeing their excited faces after enjoying Universal Studios really cheered up our staff. It was great to see so many Kinder Kids and Grad Club families enjoying themselves. We are looking forward to making more great memories together in 2022!

Due to COVID-19, it has been 2 years since the last event was held. We enjoyed playing ring toss using reindeer horn hats, matching pictures of Santa and elves with detailed descriptions. At the end of the party, everyone enjoyed playing "Pass the Parcel". Those who won colorful stationery items or pen cases of popular characters were very excited! We are planning a more exciting Christmas Party in 2022 than the 2021 party, which will attract more Grad members to participate, so please wait for it!

Let's make a four-panel comic

By PHONICS GARDEN



Tired Turtle and Incredible Iguana are playing outside even in the cold winter. They look up at the sky and seem to be having fun, but... Put the four sentences below in the correct box and then title to complete your original four-panel cartoon!



Title _____

1

2

3

4

?

- "The perfect day for flying our kites!"
- "Let's spin our tops over there later!"
- "Wow! It's windy today!"
- "I like flying a kite. It's so much fun, isn't it?"