

Preparing for elementary school enrollment Q&A



Q. Should my child be able to read and write before enrollment?

A. It is not necessary. Children gradually get interested in words and numbers about few months before they go to elementary school. If children find words or numbers they want to read and write, value their eagerness. In the elementary school, while children learn the meanings of words, they also learn right stroke order of letters and characters, proper way of holding a pencil, and good posture. Children develop their skills as they feel the joy of reading, writing, and sharing thoughts with others.

Q. I' m worried about school lunch.

A. Parents may worry if their children are allergic to some foods, if they are slow when eating, or simply if they have many dislikes. But schools try their best to make mealtimes enjoyable for everyone. Speed of eating and the amount vary among children, so in the

beginning, teachers give more time in serving, eating, and clean-up than the upper grades. As for elimination diet due to food allergies, please consult the school at the time of medical checkup or at the orientation session, both prior to enrollment. At home, please try to share enjoyable mealtimes with your child. Trying out different foods and having good experiences eating together is very important.



Rice, miso soup with meat and vegetables, pickles, and milk

Q. Who do I talk to if I have concerns?

A. "My child is restless and I' m worried if he/she can keep up with the studies." "I' m concerned if my child can get along with his/her friends". If you have such concerns, please consult your kindergarten or day-care. Teachers at these facilities will cooperate with you to solve your problems to bridge the gap between pre-school and elementary school.

Q. Are there places where children can spend time after school?

A. Yes. Hamakko Fureai School and Hokago Kids Club allow children to use school facilities after school, and Gakudo Hoiku, run by instructors and guardians, are available. Pamphlets with application and contact information are available at Chiiki Shinko-ka (Regional Promotion Section) of ward offices. You can also find information on the Kodomo Seishonen-kyoku (Child and Youth Bureau) website. (Such information may be given at enrollment orientation session.)





◆Around October, Shugaku Tsuchisho (school enrollment information) will be sent to you from the ward office. This tells you the name of the school your child will be enrolling. Please hold on to this information until the entrance ceremony.



Medical checkup prior to enrollment (around November)

- Please go to your child's school at the designated date and time. There will be general medical checkup, dental, and eye examinations. Please consult the doctor prior to enrollment if the checkup judges your child needs treatment.
- If there are things which the school should be aware about your child, please let the elementary school know.

Enrollment orientation session (around February)

• At this session, topics such as school life, commuting to and from school, things to prepare, school lunch fees and other school fees will be discussed. Date and time of this session will be announced at the time of the medical checkup.





Inquiries: Child and Youth Bureau Child Care Support Division Manager for Nursery, Preschool, and Elementary school

Guardians of children who will enter elementary school in April.

A handbook to get you prepared for enrollment



The way your child is brought up so far will be the basis of his/her school life.



Way of life

◆Children begin to build up skills such as ability to do things on their own and acting with prospects.

Getting along with others

♦Children gradually begin to be able to express themselves to other people.

Interests and curiosity

◆Children will be inquisitive, and will want to find out about things which they are curious about.



Try to bring out the good points in your child through your everyday upbringing.



1st Graders' A DAY AT SCHOOL



As children meet the new environment such as friends, teachers, and classrooms, they might feel a little confused at times.

What they need is your warm support to help them use the skills which they have acquired so far.

Breakfast

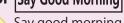


Getting up early Good morning!

Have good breakfast for a healthy day!

Be sure to go to the toilet. Off to school!

Arrive at school | Say Good Morning



Get ready for classes

Take out books and

stationery from your book bag, and put

Say good morning to your friends, teachers, and volunteer workers.

8:15



8:30



Morning gathering Health Check /Morning Song

Look into the eyes of your teachers and friends when you listen to them.

them into desks and lockers.

Teachers try to make a relaxing and friendly atmosphere so that 1st graders feel comfortable to begin their school life.

1st and 2nd periods



Scheduled subjects

Explore the school Math and Japanese are fun, too!

Children learn through experience. Teachers provide hands-on activities to let the children experience various things.





Recess

Play for 20 minutes! Let's make many friends!

3rd and 4th periods



Scheduled subjects

Teachers try to get the students interested in the subjects before starting to



Lunch time is fun!

Clean-up time

Lunch break

Scheduled subjects

Studies · Music

Subjects learned in 1st grade

Art · P.E. · Special Activities

Japanese Math Life Environmen

Ethics Foreign Languages (YICA)

※Many schools start having 5th

2nd or the 3rd week of April.

What did you do today?

periods for 1st graders around

Say good-bye to your friends and teachers at homeroom

Let's go home together.

You should go straight home.

Write down tomorrow's schedule.

%In the beginning of April, in many schools, children from the same area gather and go

Take turns to do the chores. Wash your hands.

Thank you for the delicious school lunch!!"

Cooperate with others to clean up.

This is the situation where children realize their skill to cooperate with others which they have learned in kindergartens or day-cares.

I can use the washcloth!

I can use the broom!

Around 1:00 p.m.



5th period



3. Japanese

Afternoon homeroom

Leave school (around 2:45 p.m.)

Some children go to Gakudo or Hamakko, after school .children's

Return home

Dinner time

Children get very tired wher hey start school in April.

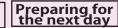
ry to let them go to bed

eárlier than usual

Bathtime

Go to bed

around 8 or 9 p.m.



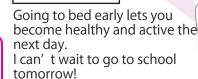
I can do my homework and prepare for tomorrow on my own!

Telling things that happened in school today. Brush your teeth.

Good night!

home in groups.

I' m home!





Listen to your child

◆Children feel secure if

This will also let children

express their thoughts

vou listen to them

carefully.

candidly.

(A)

Enjoy the growth of your child



~ Schools and homes should support each other in raising children. ~

*Topics mentioned in the colored balloons on this page are relevant to the same colored balloons on the left page.

Wait patiently

Playing

◆Children, while playing, learn important things such as how to communicate with friends, keeping rules, and compassion for

Warmly watch over

your child's growth

◆You should wait patiently or do the work together with the child, until the child is confident enough to do things on his/her own.

◆Children make mistakes, but they can learn a lot from those mistakes.

Saying hello



Children learn to say good morning, `hello`, and `good-bye` natura<mark>lly,</mark> if they listen to adults greet each other.

Interests and curiosity

◆Children are able to concentrate on things which they are interested in. Through such concentration, they develop their thinking and learn to make judgments.

Daily life

◆Going to bed early, getting up early, and having good breakfast, are the sources of children's healthy and active living.











