

**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.



**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.)



**NOTICE**

◆ **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.



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

**8:15** **Get ready for classes**  
Take out books and stationery from your book bag, and put them into desks and lockers.

**8:30** **Morning gathering** Health Check /Morning Song  
Look into the eyes of your teachers and friends when you listen to them.  
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.

**Around 10:30 a.m.** **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 teach them.

**12:15** **Lunch time is fun!**  
Take turns to do the chores. Wash your hands. "Thank you for the delicious school lunch!"



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

**Around 1:00 p.m.** **Clean-up time**  
Cooperate with others to clean up. I can use the washcloth! I can use the broom!

**Lunch break** **Scheduled subjects**  
Subjects learned in 1st grade  
·Japanese ·Math ·Life Environment Studies ·Music  
·Art ·P.E. ·Special Activities  
Ethics ·Foreign Languages (YICA)  
※Many schools start having 5th periods for 1st graders around 2nd or the 3rd week of April.

**5th period (from around 1:45 p.m.)**  
Class schedule  
1. Life Environment Studies  
2. Life Environment Studies  
3. Japanese  
4. Music  
5. Math

**Afternoon homeroom** **Say good-bye to your friends and teachers at homeroom**  
What did you do today? Write down tomorrow's schedule. Let's go home together. You should go straight home.  
※In the beginning of April, in many schools, children from the same area gather and go home in groups.

**Return home** **I'm home!** **Preparing for the next day**  
I can do my homework and prepare for tomorrow on my own!

**Dinner time** **Bathtime** **Go to bed** **Good night!**  
Going to bed early lets you become healthy and active the next day. I can't wait to go to school tomorrow!

Children get very tired when they start school in April. Try to let them go to bed earlier than usual.

# 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.



## Listen to your child

◆Children feel secure if you listen to them carefully. This will also let children express their thoughts candidly.

## Playing

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

## Warmly watch over your child's growth

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

## Wait patiently

◆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.

## Saying hello

◆Children learn to say 'good morning', 'hello', and 'good-bye' naturally, 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.

