

Expanding future possibilities

# Hirakû

31

Cover Photo: Craft "Everyone is energetic even on chilly winter days!"  
The season becomes winter and every day continues to be chilly.  
But the snowmen are not bothered by the cold!  
Everyone is having fun playing in the snow.  
The colorful hats and bows they are wearing stand out in the snow and look beautiful.  
Let's play with your friends even on cold days!

## 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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Hirakû

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- ★Setagaya School, the first Academy School in Kanto, has opened!
- ★Global Transfer Testimonials ★Nursery Teachers' Training in Canada
- ★Grad Club English Speech Contest 2023
- ★Grad Chat Eiken Intensive Course has started!!



日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.



**KINDER KIDS**  
International Academy

# SETAGAYA SCHOOL OPEN!



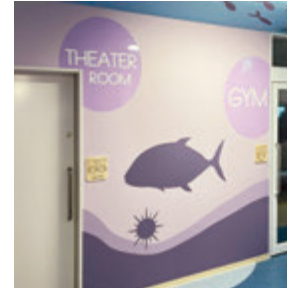
## Setagaya School, the first Academy School in the Kanto area, has opened!

In the Kanto area, we already have four schools: Yokohama School, Tokyo School, Shinagawa School, and Tama Plaza School, and many of our 550 students take the 5-day childcare course with extended hours. To cater to the needs of many parents, we opened the “**Academy School**” in Sakurashinmachi, Setagaya-ku, where all the students take the 5-day course with extended hours. We also offer the additional courses in Japanese, Chinese(Mandarin), and gymnastics. Since its launch in 2020, The Academy School program has expanded to three schools in Osaka and one in Nagoya. Our Academy school program features **a multi-lingual education (English, Japanese, Chinese), a gymnastics program** tailored to the children’s developmental stages, meals and snacks prepared by the dedicated chefs **in our kitchen on the premises**, and **school buses** operating on three routes for convenient commuting over a wide area. Setagaya School offers all of these features. **Kinder-Kids will continue to enhance its services for the growth and development of children and to support the parents.**



## Equipped with Latest ICT Educational Devices and Facilities.

Setagaya School is equipped with a variety of the latest ICT educational equipment to provide a quality education and to create an environment where students can actively pursue their own learning journey. Setagaya School’s most prominent feature is the theater room with three screens. In this room, **students can immerse themselves in a variety of worlds** such as the deep sea, Antarctica, volcanoes, pyramids, space, and the age of dinosaurs. **The images and videos will stimulate children’s visual and auditory senses and make theme-based learning more realistic and fun.** The screen can also be used for Kinder-Connect for discussing, playing games, and communicating with other KinderKids students in Japan and abroad.



## Sakura-Shinmachi, the First Holiday Villa Area in Kanto, known as "Karuzawa in Tokyo."

Sakura-Shinmachi, where our Setagaya school is located, is the town where the manga artist, Hasegawa Machiko, once lived. Hasegawa Machiko Memorial Museum, Hasegawa Machiko Art Museum, and bronze statues and illustrations of “Sazae-san” can be found throughout the town. Setagaya School is located on a shopping street named “Sazae-san Street,” which retains a nostalgic atmosphere. On the other hand, Sakura-Shinmachi has a **history of being the first suburban residential area in Kanto**, and houses were sold under the promotion of “Karuzawa in Tokyo” in the early Taisho period. That time, it was a highly advanced residential area, with electric lights, telephones, sewage systems, and later, the establishment of a Police Box. Sakura Shinmachi, with its spacious, well-planned, and affluent neighborhood, combined with the homely atmosphere depicted in Sazae-san, continues to be a highly popular residential area even today.



Projection mapping in the theater room



Sazae-san statues at the west exit of Sakura-Shinmachi Station

## A Message from the Branch Manager



Junna Ojima,  
Branch Manager of  
Setagaya school

We are pleased to announce the successful opening of our Setagaya School, the first academy school in Kanto, on January 9. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the parents and everyone else involved for the support. We are committed to creating an environment where children can spend their days happily, creating an atmosphere that makes them look forward to coming to school every day. Being a newly established school, we aspire to make numerous fun memories together with the children. I have previous experience in contributing to the opening of another new school, so I will collaborate with the staff and make the most of this experience. Building a trusting relationship with the children is something I prioritize. **We will support the growth and development of each child.** Let's have fun with new friends and teachers at the newly opened Setagaya School! Throughout the year, we are planning various events and will provide opportunities for parents to come and see. We will support our students to ensure that they will remember their wonderful experiences at Setagaya School when they graduate.

SetagayaHP  
School HP



2-1-31 Sumaura-dori,  
Suma-ku, Kobe City,  
Hyogo





**Interview with E.K.'s mather**

[Transfer Period/ Enrolled School]  
2023/7/29~8/12  
Tennoji Yuhigaoka School K3  
↓  
Oakville School JK



**Interview with M.L.'s father**

[Transfer Period/ Enrolled School]  
2023/11/6~11/17  
Clarkson School JK  
↓  
Dojima School K2



▶ **Please tell us about the circumstances that led to the decision for a global transfer.**

I wanted to give my son the opportunity to experience a cultural exchange in Canada, and at the same time, I had the desire to visit the country myself. So, I thought that it would be fantastic to have the opportunity to go sightseeing while my son is at school.

▶ **Did you have a smooth entry into Canada? If there are any precautions about immigration documents or flight transfers, please share them with us.**

**Following the Hague Convention**, Kinder Kids informed me in advance to prepare a **travel consent letter** from a parent who is not accompanying on the trip. When I was requested to present the letter at Toronto Airport, I really appreciated the school for letting me know. Also, even just for transit, when entering the United States you need to have **authorization via ESTA**. My friend who accompanied me forgot to apply and had to purchase a new return ticket.

▶ **What is E's most memorable experience in Canada this time?**

As the grade levels in Canada differ from those in Japan, my son attended a Jr. Kindergarten class, one grade below his Japanese equivalent class. Cassandra, his class teacher, praised him every day, saying things like **"Having E in this class is inspiring everyone else,"** and my son seemed to be gaining confidence day by day. He also made a close friend, and when I went to pick him up, they were always playing together.

▶ **Could you share any growth or changes in E due to the global transfer?**

He started sharing various experiences by saying, "In Canada, it was like this," and when he experienced new things in Japan, "How is it in Canada?" I think it was very beneficial for him **to experience two different cultures, Japan and Canada, which broadened his world.** He also started to have an interest in the world and is now concerned about the war in Israel. He looked for Israel on the map and thinking about how everyone can be happy.

▶ **How did you spend your time while E.K. was at school?**

A friend of mine from my school days accompanied me, so together, we went sightseeing in Oakville Town, walking in the park along Lake Ontario, and horseback riding. I also had the opportunity to visit Clarkson School, learning about the differences compared to Oakville School.

▶ **Please tell us your thoughts about the global transfer experience.**

Oakville School had a wonderful atmosphere created by Director Stephanie Good and the other teachers who are very kind. My son felt at ease and enjoyed his time there. The curriculum proceeds at a slower pace compared to that in Japan, and this creates a relaxed atmosphere where children can spend time relaxing. Every morning, my son eagerly asked, "What are today's activities?" and looked forward to going to school. He made friends in Canada and is hoping to visit again soon.



Watching a game of Shohei Ohtani at Rogers Centre, the home stadium of Toronto Blue Jays.



On his last day at Dojima School, he was presented with a mini album with messages from his friends and photos of his memories!

▶ **Could you tell us about the pre-departure procedures? Was it difficult to prepare the necessary documents?**

medical form from our pediatrician, requiring M to be re-examined in Japan.

▶ **During the stay, if there were any challenges or helpful experiences, please write about them.**

The biggest challenge was M's adjustment to walking 20 minutes to school every day, a stark contrast to our car-dependent lifestyle. We'd choose a closer residence to the school in the future, though the school itself was supportive.

▶ **Did M overall enjoy the global transfer experience?**

Yes! M loved going to school every morning and would actually ask us to drop him off earlier every morning.

▶ **What is M's most memorable experience in Japan this time?**

M's fondness for trains, especially the Shinkansen, was a highlight of our trip. He was especially excited to be lucky enough to see the Doctor Yellow train, which is very special to him.

▶ **Please tell us about the circumstances that led to the decision for a global transfer.**

We thought **the global transfer program would be a great opportunity for M to experience a different country and different culture while he is young.**

▶ **Could you share any growth or changes in M due to the global transfer?**

M's speech improved noticeably, likely due to interacting with other kids and learning about different cultures. **He seemed to grasp some cultural differences between Japan and North America.**

▶ **Would you recommend this program to other parents? Please share your reasons.**

Yes, I think it's a **great program for children, particularly to experience the culture of Japan and learn to be respectful to others.** If possible, we would have liked for Matthew to stay at least a couple weeks longer.

▶ **Feel free to write your thoughts about the global transfer experience.**

We had a great time in Japan and is very thankful to both the team at Dojima and the staff at Kinder Kids headquarters for helping make our time memorable.



# Kinder Kids Staff Overseas Training Program



## Nursery Teacher's Training in Canada



At Kinder Kids, as part of our program of globalizing our workforce, we conducted language training in Canada. In 2023, three childcare staff members experienced a three-week training program at Clarkson School or Oakville School.

While Kinder Kids schools in Japan and Canada both follow the same curriculum, the school environment and the backgrounds of the children are quite different. In Canada, where French is also an official language, French is included in the curriculum, Taekwon-Do lessons are an extracurricular activity, and due to national regulations, outdoor activity is mandatory twice a day. The Japanese childcare staff who joined the local classes noted that in Canada, there are more situations where children engage in discussions to make decisions. Also, there is a lot of time for children to inquire about their interests by themselves, and they seemed to be relaxed while enjoying themselves.

In multicultural Canada, children with various background are learning together. In a post-training report, there was a comment that said, "When we asked children about their parents' home countries, it varied from Peru, the UK, China, the USA, Jamaica, Kenya, and more. There were fewer children with Canadian-born parents." Crayons and markers were provided for coloring, and the children coloring skin and hair with different colors made a deep impression on the Japanese nursery staff.



Ai Matsui  
Higashi Osaka School

《Training Period》  
June 12 - 28, 2023

Participating in the training in Canada, I noticed all the teachers were very cheerful. At the costume party, the teachers enthusiastically commented to each child, saying, "Wow! You look beautiful!" and I thought I should do the same.

Initially, I was worried about whether my English would be understood, but I was relieved to find that everyone understood me.

I engaged in activities such as drawing pictures, folding origami, and playing tag with the children every day.

I was happy to hear a K3 child say, "You are a great teacher because you always play with us."

I visited the school the Summer Concert, during a busy time of the year, but being able to also observe the concert rehearsals and participate in the photo shoot for the graduation album became wonderful memories for me.



Moe Miyazaki  
Tokyo School

《Training Period》  
June 28-July 20, 2023

In Canada, Kinder Kids school is located in an excellent environment surrounded by nature, so after learning a lot at school, children can enjoy playing in the parks and nearby lakeside with their families.

Kinder Kids schools in Japan are also excellent. For example, potty training starts earlier and is completed earlier, and most of the students can button their shirts by the time they reach K1. Also, in Canada, except for private schools, it's rare for preschoolers to learn reading and writing. A teacher in Canada told me that Kinder Kids is an extraordinary school!

There are many good aspects of the schools in Canada, but I learned that the level of early childhood education in Japan is highly regarded outside Japan, and also made me realize how wonderful Kinder Kids and Japanese children are.



Mirai Adaniya  
Tama Plaza School

《Training Period》  
Sep 17 - Oct 7, 2023

During the three weeks of training, many experiences changed my way of thinking. I also saw many differences in childcare methods due to cultural differences. I was surprised that the same curriculum was used differently in a different country.

During the school event, Orange Shirt Day, which expresses respect for Indigenous people and honors the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada, I learned about this sad history for the first time.

I think reflecting on such negative history has contributed to the Canadian society today that respects diversity.

This training made me think about things I hadn't questioned before and stirred emotions that wouldn't have surfaced if I hadn't come to Canada. I found this training to be very meaningful.

**Kinder Kids will continue to provide overseas training programs to enhance the skills of our childcare staff!**

Oct.29  
Kanto

Nov.12  
Kansai



The Speech Contest 2023 was the first event after changes in the government's COVID-19 measures. It was held at two venues, in Kanto and Kansai. It provided students with an opportunity to showcase their talents. Some captivated the audience with their confident attitudes, some created a tense atmosphere, and others mesmerized the audience with passionate plays. Each student exhibited their own unique charm. This contest, aimed at improving English skills, is a special event where children can show their growth to their parents on a big stage. We plan to develop the Grad Club Speech Contest further, welcoming students nationwide, and providing children with new objectives for learning English.



### The winners at each venue

#### Kansai

[Champion] R.G.(Kyoto G4)

[Winner] M.I.(Kyoto G1) H.O.(Myrica G1) G.C.(Dojima G1) I.M.(Saito G1)  
A.Y.(Saito G1) K.O.(Kyoto G3) R.U.(Kyoto G3) R.G.(Kyoto G2)  
A.Y.(Saito G4)

#### Wayne Special Prize

I.M.(Saito G1)  
R.G.(Kyoto G2)

#### Kanto

[Champion] H.H.(Tokyo G2)

[Winner] R.T.(Tama Plaza G2)

#### Kansai Champion

**Overcoming the pressure of winning every year, I received an award together with R.G., my sister.**

R.G.(Kyoto School graduate,G4)  
[Class]Eiken Study



I achieved an award in G1, became the Champion in G2, secured another award and also received the Grand Prize at the KBS Kyoto Speech Contest in G3. This year, I was under a great deal of pressure, but I could become the Champion and my sister, who practiced hard with me, could also win an award. That made us both happy. As I entered the upper grade in an elementary school, I decided to give a speech about current global issues. I looked up difficult words in the dictionary because I wanted to use them. Some words were not familiar to me, and I didn't even know how to pronounce them. However, I was able to pronounce those words by practicing repeatedly with my parents. Speaking in front of people is not easy, but I believe experiencing speaking many times in front of people at Show & Tell has helped me gain confidence.

The words Principal Wayne shared with us at the end of the contest, "When you come back every year and give a speech you feel more comfortable. This makes you more confident and helps you to become a better leader!" has been my motivation to put effort into my speeches!

#### Kanto Champion

**I decided to give my best without fearing mistakes!**

H.H.(Tokyo School Graduate. G2)  
[Class]Saturday, Conversation,  
Grad Chat, After School



I chose "My Okinawa Memory" as the topic for my speech because my two trips to Okinawa left a lasting impression on me and I wanted to share that experience with everyone. I talked about the beautiful sea and enjoyable things of Okinawa in my own words to capture the interest of the audience.

In the Grad Chat lessons, I learned where to emphasize and how to use gestures effectively, so when I was practicing my speech, I kept that in mind. Until I could say my speech without making mistakes, I played a recitation game with my mom and listened to the audio of my successful speech over and over again. I tried to think of my speech as the same as Show & Tell at Kinder Kids or speaking in front of everyone in elementary school. The experience of sharing stories in front of people at Show & Tell helped me a lot at the speech contest.

#### Kansai Winner

**I want to deliver a speech to people with hearing impairments.**

A.Y.  
(Ibaraki Saito School Graduate, G4)  
[Class] Saturday,  
Conversation,  
After School



During my first year of elementary school, there was a special event commemorating the school's 10th anniversary. As a part of the event, I performed sign language while a chorus group was singing the school song. This experience inspired me to make a speech about how to communicate with foreign people with hearing impairments. During my speech, I used sign language to deliver my speech to people with hearing impairments.

The rehearsal for the Christmas concert at Kinder Kids, particularly the teacher's narration, the way to enter the stage, posture, and performance techniques were all useful to my speech. In addition, it was beneficial to regularly hear various expressions and pronunciations from teachers who came from different countries.

In the Grad Club's Conversation Class, I practiced how to quickly convey my thoughts, and in the After School Class, the interesting topics helped me to expand my vocabulary.

#### Kanto Winner

**Overcoming nervousness, I won my first trophy on my second attempt.**

R.T.  
(External School Graduate, G2)  
[Class] Saturday



Since I was 5 years old, I loved giant squids and I wanted many people to know that the deep sea where giant squids live is now full of garbage. Last year, when I participated in the contest for the first time I found out that the winners received trophies. I decided to participate again with the hope to win one myself. It was my first trophy ever, and I was really happy to receive it!

At home and on my way to school, I tried to practice even for a little time every day. In my speech, I consciously added intonation and gestures.

My voice tends to get softer when I get nervous, so overcoming my nervousness was a challenge for me. To prepare for the possibility of my voice getting softer when I become nervous during my speech, I made sure to speak louder during practice. The opportunity to speak in front of other students during Grad Club lessons was very helpful for me.





# Eiken Intensive Course by Japanese Teachers has started!!

Grad Chat provides lessons to prepare for the Eiken speaking tests by English-speaking teachers. However, in response to feedback, such as "I can't find time to take the Eiken course" or "I am good at speaking, but I struggle with the writing test," we have started "Grad Chat Eiken Lesson" taught by Japanese teachers. In addition, to strengthening Reading and Writing skills just before the exam, we have also started an "Eiken Intensive Course".

## What is the "Eiken Intensive Course" ?

Eiken Intensive Course offers short-term intensive lessons available from one month before the exam until the day before the exam (Reservation is required through an online form).

●Reading:40-minute group lesson x3 ●Writing:20-minute private lesson x1

This course covers all the necessary preparation for the Reading and Writing sections in a short period.

### ①Highly Experienced Instructors

Japanese instructors with over 10 years of experience in Eiken instruction will teach in **private lessons and group lessons consisting of up to three students.**

### ②Thorough Learning in Writing section of the test through Private Lessons

The instructors will provide private lessons for English writing, which can be difficult to study on your own.

### ③Distribution of Feedback Sheets after Lessons

After each lesson, a feedback sheet written by the instructor will be distributed. This sheet points out where to review. By utilizing this sheet, students can continue to practice by themselves or with their parents until the examination day.



Other than the Eiken Intensive Course, we also offer reading and writing lessons in the regular Grad Chat schedule. Students can choose any combination of private or group lessons, all instructed by Japanese Eiken teachers.

**Please check the Grad Chat website for details, lesson videos, and Q&A!**

For inquiries or applications, please contact us at:TEL : 06-6573-0166 E-mail : support@gc.kinderkids.ed.jp



Hitomi

## ●●● Message from an Eiken Teacher ●●●

Our ability to concentrate, which influences our motivation and abilities, is related to our state of mind. In the lessons, we cultivate children's confidence and a sense of achievement and nurture the spirit of actively taking on challenges.

In the Eiken test, questions often involve topics like world history, geography, environment, and technology that elementary school students haven't learned yet.

Even if you understand the questions, you may not be able to answer them because you don't understand the meaning of the stories.

When you come across words written in katakana or hear words on TV that you don't know, don't hesitate to ask your parents or teachers and add those words to your vocabulary.

With your strong English skills and a rich vocabulary, you will become an English Super Kid! I'm sure reading long stories in the Eiken test will become enjoyable for you.



## Grad Chat Eiken Lesson 2023 Eiken ( the second) Testimonials of Successful Examinees

Results of September Eiken Intensive Course Students

[Grade 3] 6 students / 2 passed  
[Grade Pre-2] 12 students / 4 passed

Examinee T.Y.  
Graduate of Takatsuki



Grade at exam

G2

Grade

Pre-2

I enrolled in the "Eiken Intensive Course" as recommended by my mother, and the lessons were excellent. The explanations were clear and easy to understand. I took the "Eiken Vocabulary Building" course when I had time. I am truly happy to have passed.

**From his mother** He has soccer practice after school, and due to his busy schedule, the flexibility of choosing a convenient time for online lessons at home was very appealing. The correction of the writing and the feedback to parents were also beneficial. It seems that having a friend from the same preschool in the same lessons stimulated his motivation and made taking the lessons more enjoyable. As children grow and their interests broaden, I believe Grad Chat's Eiken lessons are excellent for preparing for the Eiken test.

Examinee M.S.  
Graduate of Takatsuki



Grade at exam

G2

Grade

Pre-2

I found the Writing Test challenging, so I took Eiken lessons to learn some tips. Having the teacher correct my writing and teach me how to write long passages were very helpful. I was thrilled when I knew that I passed.

**From his mother** When he decided to take the Eiken test, there wasn't much time until the test day. However, with guidance on study methods for his weak areas from the teachers at Grad Chat, he was able to pass the test. Also, the tips and advice he received in the intensive course helped him gain confidence in his writing. For me, exchanging information about English with other mothers whose children attend Kinder Kids was a great source of emotional support.

Examinee N.S.  
Graduate of Ibaraki Saito



Grade at exam

G3

合格級

Level 3

I took the Eiken lessons because there wasn't much time until the exam, and I felt studying on my own would be difficult. I was under pressure because I started studying for Eiken later than other students, but I'm glad I could pass the test. I want to study English harder to be able to enroll in an American university in the future.

**From his mother** She received clear guidance on how to tackle the Reading Section of the test, a section she struggled with. It was good that my daughter was given specific advice such as using "is" too much in her writing, so she was able to be conscious of this and made the necessary corrections. I appreciated being able to listen to the advice together with my daughter in Japanese, as it allowed me to advise her when she was reviewing the lessons. Thanks to the thoughtful support to our family, she was able to take the exam with confidence.