

Hiraku

34

Cover: "A Real Fruit Monster Has Appeared!"

A Fruit Monster depicted in the picture book "My Fruit Monster," was recreated using real fruits by A.K. from Yao School and her family.

Pineapples, watermelons, bananas, cherries, strawberries, oranges, lemons, and more

— the monster made from colorful fruits appears as if it has jumped straight out of the picture book.

The family's creativity beautifully expresses the unique character of the fruit-made monster.

It is fun to realize the world of picture books!

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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Hiraku

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★ A Native English Teacher has Passed the Japanese Childcare Licence Exam

★ My Stepping Stone<File7>

★ CPR and Epipen Training & Safety Management at Kinder Kids

★ Osaka University International Students Interned at Kinder Kids

★ IPC Curriculum at Infinity





Passed the Childcare Licence Exam!

Interview with a Native English Teacher

< Part 1: Lulu Qianmiao >

Passing the childcare license exam in Japan is a significant achievement for those whose native language is not Japanese. We interviewed two native English teachers of Kinder Kids who successfully passed this challenging exam and asked why they took the childcare license exam and what are their educational philosophies. These interviews will be published in separate issues.



Lulu Qianmiao

(Tennoji Yuhigaoka School)

Born in Singapore, Lulu was a middle school teacher before moving to Japan. After working for a Japanese company for several years, she rediscovered her passion for teaching children and joined Kinder Kids as a teacher. She teaches Mandarin at Academy School and Infinity Global School, cherishing opportunities to share her language and culture with the children. She supports the children's physical and mental well-being through Social Emotional Learning* (SEL).

[Social Emotional Learning]

Social Emotional Learning is an approach that focuses not only on IQ (Intelligence Quotient) but also on EQ (Emotional Intelligence Quotient).

have obtained a Childcare License in a foreign language while I am abroad.

[Foreign Language and Culture]

Sometimes children have difficulty expressing themselves in English. It is important to be patient, encourage, and help children using words and gestures to express themselves. This way, they will gain confidence in speaking



[The Motivation and Story Behind the Decision to Take the Childcare License Exam]

When I first joined Kinder Kids, I was assigned as a Nursery Class teacher. Despite having experience as a middle school teacher, it was my first time teaching and interacting with small children, and I struggled a lot to adjust to this new environment. However, my class partner, who had extensive experience was a great support to me. I realized that I was expected not only to be just a language teacher but also to support the children's safety, health, and growth as a childcare-giver. This made me aware of the need to deepen my knowledge of childcare. I became interested in learning more about how to support children from different aspects. Many of my Japanese colleagues had obtained childcare licenses. Since I also understand Japanese to some extent, I thought I could pass the Childcare License exam, so I decided to take the exam. Encouraged by my school managers and colleagues who gave me useful advice, I was able to overcome many difficulties. The Childcare License exam not only requires childcare knowledge but also requires advanced Japanese language skills. Studying with a dictionary in hand, and understanding each section of the exam, was a long and laborious process. After a year and a half of study and repeated reviews, I finally passed all the written and practical sections on my third attempt. I am proud to



English and even Mandarin. When providing information to parents, especially regarding illnesses or injuries, it's important to describe their children's symptoms accurately. Considering my Japanese language skills, I sometimes worry about whether I am accurately conveying the child's symptoms to the parents. However, on such occasions, my Japanese colleagues help interpret for me.

[Teaching Methods]

My educational philosophy is to make learning fun and fascinating. If children are not interested in a class, it is because they are bored. I use every method I can think of to make the class interesting and amusing for children, such as songs, games, stories, various media, crafts, balloons, magic tricks, stickers, and puppets—utilizing any creative means possible. My goal is to entertain children while they learn. Also, teachers themselves should enjoy the classes. I believe when teachers enjoy teaching, children will also enjoy learning.

[Building Trusting Relationships with Children]

When building relationships with children, I try to be sincere and open-minded. Every day, the children and I enjoy conversing about many things such as the event of the day, favorite characters, and hair clips. When children feel our sincerity and affection, they will open up to us. This is the beginning of building a good relationship, and we also can understand children better through these everyday conversations. As childcare providers with foreign backgrounds, we can bring "the world" into our classrooms, teaching children about diverse cultures and countries. I actively share my language and culture with children, introducing Chinese traditional festivals through stories and crafts. On special occasions, I wear traditional clothing to class and the children are intrigued by my attire! We need to raise children's awareness of the international community and emphasize the importance of harmony in diversity..



[Future Goals]

I would like to use my knowledge and experience as a childcare professional to plan and promote attractive lessons that help children effectively learn while meeting their various learning needs. I also aspire to enhance Mandarin classes at Kinder Kids and Infinity by obtaining the "International Chinese Teacher Certificate". By better understanding how children develop their abilities, we can create original curriculums and learning materials tailored to young learners. I believe this approach helps children grow into confident, compassionate, and multilingual global citizens.

[Advice to Those Considering Working as Childcare Providers Overseas]

If you're considering working as a childcare provider overseas, give it a try! Don't let language barriers or cultural differences hold you back. Please take one step forward. There's a saying by Lao-zi, 「千里之行, 始于足下」(Qiān lǐ zhī xíng, shǐ yú zú xià), "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." It emphasizes that great achievements begin with a single action. Fear of the unknown and self-doubt may hold you back from trying new things, so have the courage to follow your heart and desire to deepen your knowledge. It will surely enrich your life more than you can imagine.



My Stepping Stone <File7>

Kinder Kids was the start.

Introduction of graduates who through their efforts opened new doors.

Continued Passion for Tennis Leads to a Professional Career Aiming to grow further, Aely will enroll at the University of Miami, which has some of the strongest sports teams in the United States.

Balancing academics and sports, she aspires to become a globally loved tennis player

New Challenges at the University of Miami

After graduating from high school, I will attend the University of Miami, which has some of the strongest sports teams in the United States. I was attracted to the University of Miami for its high academic standards and comprehensive tennis program. I felt the school environment with its diverse cultures was ideal for my personal growth. The school atmosphere, coaches, and other students helped me decide to enroll in this school.

English Acquisition at Kinder Kids

The English skills I developed at Kinder Kids have been very helpful in my school life and tennis activities. When I trained at IMG in Florida during middle school, my English skills helped me a lot to communicate with coaches and players from all over the world. My experience of speaking in front of people at Kinder Kids was also useful in college interviews and presentations.



Balancing Sports and Academics

Balancing sports and academics is challenging, but I manage it by organizing my daily schedule and setting priorities. I make the most of my commuting time on the train and breaks between classes to achieve my goals.

My Father is a “Passionate” Person

When I was in elementary school, my father accompanied me every day to the train station while I practiced tossing and back-stepping with my school backpack on. Through my daily training routine, I learned self-discipline and acquired the ability to progress step by step toward my objectives.

A Message to Kinder Kids Students

English is a useful tool that helps to expand your possibilities. Please be positive and enjoy learning English. Please cherish the relationships you have with the friends and teachers at Kinder Kids, and continue to learn more about the world.



University of Miami, [UM]

The University of Miami is a private university located in Coral Gables, a southwestern suburb of Miami, Florida. The University is a prestigious private university that was not only ranked 16th in the NCAA in 2022 but also ranked 67th in academics among all national universities.

Osaka School Graduate

Aely Ariai

Freshman at the University of Miami



Aely Ariai graduated from Kinder Kids Osaka School in 2012. She started playing tennis in the third grade of elementary school and demonstrated outstanding athletic ability and perseverance. After preschool, she enrolled at Doshisha International Academy Elementary School and graduated from Doshisha High School in 2024. She has been accepted to the University of Miami in Florida on a full scholarship and will move to the United States in September.

[Achievements and Awards]

2017	IMG Academy Discovery Open Under12 Girls - First Place
2022	ITF World Tennis Tour J60 Miki City - First Place
2023	Kansai Junior Tennis Championship - First Place
2023	National High School Tennis Championship - Second Place
2024	W15 TOKYO Tournament - Singles: Last 16, Doubles: Semifinalist
July 2024	SBC DREAM TENNIS TOUR 2024 出場



From Aely's Mother

We interviewed Aely's mother, who has supported her daughter's growth and challenges, about her daughter's childhood and how she supported Aely at home.

She reflected from a mother's perspective on how Aely gained the strength to continue to pursue her dreams.

— What type of child was Aely?

When I asked my daughter, "Are you really going to a university abroad?" she replied, "The only one hesitating is you, Mom. I'm ready. I'll just take my passport and determination and go to the U.S." Hearing these words, I strongly felt her growth and strength. Come to think of it, she has always been mentally strong since she was little. When she was in K2, we went to the UK, and while we were waiting in line at the airport security check, she drank all the bottled water and exclaimed, "I'm finished!" This surprised the airport staff.

— What kind of parental support have you given to Aely?

My husband fully supports Aely's passion for tennis, assisting her with daily training and participation in matches. I support her daily life. For example, when she faces difficulties, I massage her feet at night while listening to her and encouraging her to stay positive. There are many times when she gets injured or things don't go as planned, but instead of focusing on what is lost, I try to emphasize what can be learned and support her to take the next step.

— How do you approach parenting?

We prioritize providing education that suits each of our children individually and do not believe in making the older child do something just because they are older or not allowing the younger child to do something just because they are younger. We believe it is important to let each child choose their own path without the younger one having to make any sacrifices.

【Editorial Dep.】 Six years ago, in an interview when Aely was 12 years old, she expressed her future dream of wanting to become a tennis player who is loved by people all over the world. As Aely moves closer and closer to realizing that dream, we want to cheer her on with our heartfelt support. **Go Aely!**

CPR & EpiPen Training Session

Interview with the Instructors



During the spring break before the start of this school year, we held a staff training session on administering CPR and the use of the EpiPen, inviting Professor Atsushi Kamikubo from Meiji University of Integrative Medicine and Mr. Hitoshi Hatano from LEGOLAND Discovery Center Osaka. Remote school employees participated online. With simultaneous interpretation, all employees, regardless of nationality, were able to participate. The staff members gave positive feedback, such as "the instruction was easy to understand and I realized the importance of being prepared through hands-on training." We had the opportunity to interview the two trainers who led the training session.



Professor Atsushi Kamikubo
Faculty of Emergency Medical Science
Meiji University of Integrative Medicine

actual hands-on techniques. Accidents can occur suddenly, but with proper training, you will be able to respond by providing the necessary life-saving actions even in highly tense situations.

[Feedback from Participants]

At first, I was concerned about the many international participants in the training, but their enthusiastic participation eased my worries. Everyone's response to the training was very positive, and I could feel their high motivation by the look in their eyes and attitude. I was able to proceed with the training with the support of all the participants.

[Importance of Safety Management]

In preschools and daycare facilities, it's crucial for all staff, not just directors and managers, to have experience in first aid methods. Specifically, all staff members should be able to make decisions and work together to respond to any symptoms, call an ambulance, determine whether to see a doctor, contact parents and related agencies, and accompany the child to a hospital. Additionally, teaching children three years old and older about self-defense, how to safely play to avoid injuries, and how to respond in case of illness will improve overall safety in the daycare facilities. It also helps children understand the importance of life.

[Significance of Regular CPR and First Aid Training]

Without actual training opportunities, confidence and quality cannot be developed. It is essential to maintain skills through regular training. Also, it is important to ensure that every staff member can perform the same first aid procedures, enabling everyone to handle any situation at any time. Training



sessions should be tailored to specific situations and seasons, and by implementing clear measures, prevention can be strengthened. Through evidence-based training, staff members can learn to respond calmly and effectively in emergencies.

[Common Incidents and Effective Responses]

In this training, Professor Atsushi Kamikubo taught us how to respond to five critical incidents and the practical knowledge to keep children safe.

- ①Lacerations or bleeding caused by colliding with classmates
- ②Heatstroke during outdoor activities in summer
- ③Sudden illnesses such as vomiting or febrile seizures
- ④Injuries such as cuts and bruises during physical activities
- ⑤Allergic reactions due to incorrect serving of allergy-causing foods, or anaphylactic shock due to animal or plant allergies

Knowledge of first aid is crucial for handling injuries caused by physical activities or colliding with classmates. Before summer outdoor activities, it's effective to conduct health checks, monitor the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) index, and prepare heatstroke prevention items. It is important to read manuals and have training for dealing with sudden illnesses. To prevent allergic reactions, carefully double-checking during food serving is necessary. Preventing animal and plant allergies requires advanced research and knowledge of how to use an EpiPen. Moreover, teaching children the importance of self-protection and maintaining good relationships between the school and parents are also crucial for improving safety management.



Hitoshi Hatano
LEGOLAND Discovery Center Osaka

[Emergency Response and Lessons Learned]

In my experience at LEGOLAND Discovery Center Osaka, particularly in handling medical emergencies and first aid, I find "not panicking" to be very crucial. During emergencies, it's important to calmly assess the condition of the injured or ill person, and call for help from many people. Regular simulation training is also essential, and we conduct these sessions regularly even within the theme park.

[Emergency Response in a Crowded Venue]

At LEGOLAND Osaka, we handle situations by ensuring the privacy of the injured or ill customers while coordinating roles and teamwork. This enables a smooth response to any emergency.

[Heatstroke Prevention and Preparations]

When going out on hot summer days, staying hydrated and taking breaks are essential. At theme parks, it's easy to get caught up in the fun and neglect these precautions. For hydration, we recommend not only tea and water but also sports drinks containing salt. Proper diet and adequate sleep are also important in the prevention of heat stroke. Especially among younger people, prevention is often neglected. It is important to prepare the body for the heat in advance. Furthermore, teaching children how to play without getting injured and what to do in case of sudden illness improves safety management for the entire school. It will also help the children learn the value of life.



Naomi Michibata
Childcare and Education Dept.

Safety Management at KinderKids

This training, organized by the Childcare and Education Department, is important to ensure the safety of the children. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Professor Kamikubo and Mr. Hatano for their guidance. The EpiPen and CPR training is to learn what can be done to save lives before the ambulance arrives. Kinder Kids also conducts twice-monthly evacuation drills, training at the disaster prevention center, and all staff members are updated with the latest information through allergy training. We will continue to maintain the PDCA cycle for safety management and to improve the quality of childcare.



Erik Lekman
KTH Royal Institute of Technology

International Internship Experience at Kinder Kids

This spring, Kinder Kids welcomed exchange students from Osaka University to participate in an internship program. From April to July, these students gained hands-on experience in early childhood education by directly interacting with the children. ↗

Q. Why did you decide to study in Japan?

A. I thought that experiencing Japanese culture, which is significantly different from European culture, would be a valuable cultural experience. Japan's high standard of education was also appealing. I thought Japan would be the perfect place to deepen my learning in a different cultural environment.



Q. Why did you decide to participate in the internship program at Kinder Kids?

A. I was interested in Japan's business practices and decided to participate because a friend who had previously joined this program recommended it. Additionally, I saw it as a great opportunity to apply the research I conducted on second language acquisition for my undergraduate thesis.

Q. What are your most memorable experiences or events during your stay in Japan?

A. I had various challenges in the classes I participated in. The children were kind and highly motivated to learn, but they were very active, so it required continuing effort to keep their attention. I learned that understanding each child's personality is crucial to capturing their attention.

Q. What differences, such as teaching methods, did you see between education in Japan and in your home country?

A. Compared to education in Japan, in Sweden, I remember there was more time spent outdoors (such as outdoor playtime), and less class time.



Q. How has your experience at Kinder Kids influenced your views on education?

A. I realized the importance of starting education as early as possible. I was amazed to see very young children who couldn't tie their shoelaces conversing fluently in English.

Q. What is the most important thing you have learned during your internship?

A. The most important thing I learned was to make the children recognize me as a teacher. During my weekly visits, I was often perceived more like a friend, so I adjusted my tone of voice, body language, and maintained an appropriate distance so that they would perceive me as a teacher.

Q. Would you recommend participating in the internship program at Kinder Kids to other students? If so, why?

A. Yes, I would definitely recommend it. I learned a lot from my experience here. Also, the staff was enthusiastic and supportive. I had a great time interacting with the children.

Osaka University Exchange Students' Cross-Border Learning

↘ What did they learn from this experience? We interviewed two students to find out what they learned from this experience and what they thought of the Japanese educational environment.



Kim Jieun
Pusan National University

Q. Why did you decide to study in Japan?

A. I have relatives living in Japan, and since I was young, I have heard a lot about Japan. I find Japanese culture and cuisine particularly fascinating, and I have been studying Japanese as well. I decided to study in Japan to experience the culture and also to improve my Japanese language skills.



Q. Why did you decide to participate in the internship program at Kinder Kids?

A. I taught English for four years at an English language school in Korea, where the focus was primarily on improving exam scores. I thought that this approach had clear advantages and disadvantages. Since Japan is geographically close to Korea, I wanted to compare the similarities and differences in their English teaching methods. By doing this, I hope to find ways to make learning English easier and more enjoyable for students.

Q. What are your most memorable experiences or events during your stay in Japan?

A. I taught English to children and played games with them in English. I felt that it was important to get them interested in English to enhance their skills. When children became interested in English, they became very active.

Q. What differences, such as teaching methods, did you see between education in Japan and your home country?

A. It is difficult to directly compare Kinder Kids with the school where I studied English or the English language school where I taught because they are different, but comparing what I have heard from my Japanese friends with how Korean children learn English, I think the educational methods in Japan and Korea are similar.



Q. How has your experience at Kinder Kids influenced your views on education?

A. I learned how important the environment is for learning. In an environment that supports focused learning, the learning becomes more effective. It's also important to create situations that stimulate the desire to learn. I believe that learning a new language at an early age makes it easier to acquire the language.

Q. What is the most important thing you have learned during your internship?

A. Since education is about human relationships, I believe that building a good relationship between teachers and students is the most important thing.

Q. Would you recommend participating in the internship program at Kinder Kids to other students? If so, why?

A. Yes, I would highly recommend it. Through the internship, I learned a lot not only from an educational perspective but also in terms of building good relationships with students. I believe this experience will have a positive impact on my life.

IPC classes

at Infinity Global Elementary School

At Infinity Global Elementary School, IPC (International Primary Curriculum) was introduced in the third year of its opening. The school provides cross-curricular inquiry-based learning across various themes. The IPC is based on the same international educational standards as the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme and the Cambridge Primary but focuses specifically on practical, inquiry-based activities. Aligned with the learning objectives of the UK's National Curriculum, the curriculum at KinderKids also adopts theme-based learning, integrating multiple subjects such as science, geography, and history.

IPC lesson example: "Learning Safely Online"

This lesson aims to enhance information literacy by focusing on information gathering, analysis, and effective communication methods.

<Information Gathering>

Children use the "Screen Time Tracker" to monitor their own digital device usage, thereby increasing self-awareness regarding the use of digital media.

<Analysis>

We introduced a new web app called "Make a Bar Graph" and the children were first allowed to freely operate the application. Through this method, children quickly learned how to use the app. Next, they interviewed classmates to collect data on which devices are often used and for what purposes. They learned information analysis and visualization skills by using this data and the "Make a Bar Graph" application to make a graph.

<Effective Communication>

At the end of the lesson, children evaluated their own online activities and submitted screenshots of their graphs to the "SeeSaw" social media app. By sharing their achievements through this platform, they deepened their understanding of the safety and effectiveness of online information processing, thereby strengthening their digital literacy skills.

The IPC-based curriculum allows students to work together and address real-world problems in depth by linking the content of each subject. We provide education where students deeply study a single theme over 2 to 6 weeks, developing skills needed not only in the classroom but also in society.



 INFINITY GLOBAL SCHOOL

1st Term Report

Entrance Ceremony



In April 2024, Infinity Global School warmly welcomed its new first-year students. During this year's opening ceremony, the current students escorted the new students into the ceremony, and a representative of the current students delivered a heartfelt welcome speech in both English and Japanese. The new students demonstrated their creativity by presenting personal videos talking about their future dreams.

In the principal's speech, he emphasized the importance of a "growth mindset" and highlighted how important continuous learning is.

Infinity Global School aims to be more than just an educational institution but also aims to build a community that grows and supports each other. The understanding and cooperation of the parents are essential for achieving this goal. We look forward to showcasing our achievements through many events in the future, where teachers and students work together as one.

School Excursion



As part of the IPC's Unit "How Humans Work," the 1st and 2nd graders explored how the mind and body work. This unit emphasizes deepening students' understanding through physical activities, and learning how they use their bodies effectively. In a recent excursion, students took on the challenge of a climbing wall. This activity not only allows students to test their physical limits but also to develop mental strength through the process of overcoming fears and learning new skills. Climbing the wall requires muscle strength, coordination, and decision-making skills, all directly related to the

learning objectives of the "How Humans Work" unit. By overcoming individual challenges, students can enhance their self-efficacy and realize how physical activities influence the mind. Through this excursion, children experienced the joy of self-transcendence and learned the importance of overcoming difficulties.



Infinity Global Elementary School: 2025 Admission Guidelines

[Application Period]

July 25 (Thu) 9 am to August 20 (Tue) 5 pm, 2024

※We only accept online applications. Applications are accepted online only. Please note that physical applications are not accepted.

● For more details, please visit our website.

