

Cover: Craft "Friends of the Great Ocean"

A wide blue ocean stretches out, filled with many sea creatures coming together.

Big fish, tiny shells, and colorful marine animals are all happily swimming along.

On the sandy ocean floor, green seaweed sways gently, adding vibrant life to the underwater world.

This lively ocean scene, created by the many sea creatures, reflects the individuality of each Kinder child.

Each one's unique sparkle comes together to brighten the sea.

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

40

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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My Stepping Stone <File 10>

Kinder Kids was the start.

Introduction of graduates

who through their efforts opened new doors.



Graduate of
Nara Tomigaoka
School

S.K.

1st-year student at
Juntendo
University

Ms. Stephanie, Director of Kinder Kids Oakville in Canada, sent an email with exciting news: “A graduate from Japan came to visit us!” She was referring to a familiar former student—S.K., who graduated from Kinder Kids Nara Tomigaoka in 2013. S.K. had just completed high school this spring. During the break before starting university, she stayed with Ms. Stephanie and volunteered at the school. As we spoke with her, we learned that she had also taken part in volunteer work with local children in Zambia during her final year of high school. Twelve years after graduating from Kinder Kids, we follow the journey of a young woman who has gained experiences across the globe—and the inspiration that has guided her path from the very beginning.

Finding My Path: 14 Days of Facing the Meaning of “Life”

In the summer of my final year of high school, I joined an overseas dispatch program organized by Nara City and visited Zambia in Africa.

There, I engaged in various activities including interacting with underprivileged children, providing educational support at a school in a slum, and visiting a hospital in a rural village. Through these experiences, I naturally began to reflect on questions like “What is life?” and “What does it mean to protect life?” Seeing children my own age desperately trying to survive another day—some numbing their hunger and pain with drugs, others searching through trash for food—left me speechless. It made me realize just how privileged and taken-for-granted our “ordinary” lives are. One of the program leaders told me something that still stays with me: “Even if you don’t have a big dream right now, just try doing the things you want to do, little by little—you’ll surely find it.”

It was a powerful message, one that deeply resonated with me. There were countless insights and emotions I could never have encountered just by sitting at a desk. This experience sparked a growing interest in supporting people through NPO activities and humanitarian work. **In the future, I hope to continue engaging in work that allows me to help others in international settings.** This strong desire was born from those 14 days in Zambia. That same feeling led me to volunteer at Kinder Kids in Canada as well.



Handwashing instruction at a school in a slum, incorporating some Japanese



Preparing for the summer festival together with local school children

While questioning the meaning of life, I stepped into a new world with courage.

The feelings that began to grow within me guided the path I would follow.

Twelve Years After Graduation: What I Found in Canada—What Hasn’t Changed, and What Was New

During the spring break after graduating from high school, I volunteered for about four days at Kinder Kids Oakville in Canada. In addition to assisting with classroom learning, I also worked as a teacher’s assistant in the Japanese class, with support from the Japanese staff. I folded seasonal flowers out of origami and introduced Japanese hand play songs like “Hajimaru yo”, finding creative ways to share Japanese culture in fun and engaging ways. As a graduate returning to an overseas Kinder Kids school, I felt that the strong international character of the environment—teachers and students coming from a variety of countries and regions—remained unchanged.

At the same time, the racial and linguistic diversity at the Canada campus stood out even more. I was surprised by how naturally children were exposed to three languages: English, French, and Japanese. Living in a multicultural setting was not something special—it was simply part of everyday life. That sense of normalcy left a deep impression on me.



Sharing Japanese culture through fun origami activities

Not Just English—The Foundation That Opened the Door to the World

As I’ve gained various experiences, I sometimes find myself reflecting on my days at Kinder Kids, where my journey into English and cross-cultural understanding began. Through everyday life at the preschool, I naturally became familiar with the sounds of English while also enjoying exposure to diverse cultures and values. Spending time with teachers and friends from many different backgrounds helped me gradually develop an attitude of accepting differences and the courage to express my own opinions. I now realize that this foundation is deeply connected to the person I am today.



Experiencing the realities on the ground through interactions with underprivileged children

Aiming to Become a Globally Active Pharmacist with an International Perspective and Flexible Thinking

At Doshisha International Academy and in the IB course at Ritsumeikan Uji High School, I developed advanced English skills and refined my academic reading, writing, and research abilities. Spending time with teachers and classmates from diverse backgrounds also helped me naturally cultivate the ability to think from multiple perspectives and with a critical mindset. Currently, I am studying in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Juntendo University, aiming to become a pharmacist. Through learning about the importance of team-based healthcare and gaining practical knowledge, I have had many opportunities to expand my academic horizons—especially by receiving instruction from professors with overseas research experience and being exposed to cutting-edge knowledge in global healthcare. In the future, I hope to make use of both my English proficiency and pharmaceutical expertise to become a pharmacist who can support people in international settings.

A Must-Read
for Travel-Loving
Families!



Kinder Kids Staff Column

Parenting Insights Found in Parks While Traveling

Traveling with small children brings not only joy and excitement but also unexpected challenges and the need for creative solutions. In this column, a Kinder Kids headquarters staff member—who is also a parent—shares valuable experiences in local parks discovered during family travels, offering insights that support both parent and child growth.



Banna Park, Ishigaki Island

Park Time: A Moment of Rest for the Whole Family

One of our family's greatest joys is traveling together. But for small children, trips often mean long stretches of waiting—during transit or in lines at tourist spots. In the midst of that, we started making it a habit to stop by local parks wherever we traveled. At first, I thought it was a waste to spend part of our limited travel time at a park, but now I see it as an essential moment that refreshes the whole family.



Ayamaru Cape Tourist Park, Amami Oshima

A Scene of a Parent and Child on Ishigaki Island

During a recent visit to Banna Park on Ishigaki Island, I was struck by how spacious the park was, making great use of the natural slope of the mountain. It was filled with a variety of playground equipment and offered stunning views. Local families were having picnics, and children were running around and playing with all their energy—scenes that are hard to come by in urban parks.

What surprised me most was seeing a toddler, maybe one or two years old, attempting to climb a bouldering wall. The mother gently supported the child with her hand but never said, "It's too dangerous!" Even after the child slipped and fell repeatedly, she patiently waited for them to get up and try again. Despite scraping a knee, the child eventually reached the top, about two meters high. That moment taught me how courageous it is for a parent to simply watch and trust.

It made me realize that being a parent isn't just about stopping something because it might be dangerous.

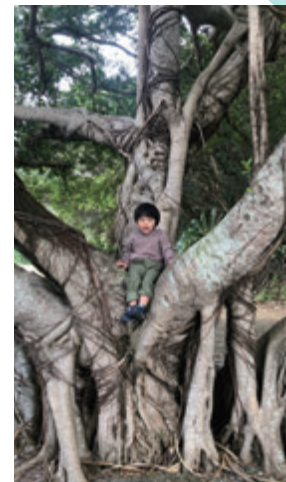


Banna Park, Ishigaki Island

Trusting Children and Giving Them a Gentle Push

In a shaded corner of the park, children were gathering branches as tall as themselves, completely absorbed in building a secret hideout. At a typical park, just running around with sticks would have prompted adults to say, "Stop! That's dangerous." But here, one boy wasn't just picking up fallen branches—he tried to climb a tree to break one off. To my surprise, another child immediately stopped him, saying, "You can't do that!" I was amazed to see how the children had naturally created an atmosphere where they followed rules and looked out for one another.

Later, a small child saw an older one climbing a tree and exclaimed, "I want to try too!" I was curious how the parent would respond, and they glanced around and said, "This height is fine—even if you fall, you won't die. Go ahead and try." Normally, I think many parents (myself included) would say, "Don't do that—little kids might copy you!" But here on Ishigaki, younger children were using older ones as role models and boldly trying all sorts of new things. Seeing this, even my usually cautious son was inspired—he climbed up to a high playground structure and played energetically alongside the local children.



Even seaside banyan trees make for impressive playgrounds (Amami Oshima)

Bringing the Lessons from Travel Parks into Everyday Life

In cities, where space is limited, following safety rules is of course important. But no matter where children play, parents can still trust in their children's desire to take on challenges and quietly watch over them. As parents join in and enjoy the time together, I realized that children feel safe and secure enough to embark on new adventures. Every park holds unique insights into how children play and how parents engage with them—insights shaped by the local culture and environment. Thanks to what we learned at Banna Park, our family now makes sure to include "playtime at a park" in every trip we plan. From now on, I hope to continue setting aside time to play in parks with my child, embracing the unique atmosphere of each place and creating deeper, richer memories of our journeys.



A quick stop at a small play area on the corner of the street



[Banna Park (Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture)]

Located on the mountainside of Ishigaki Island, Banna Park makes the most of its natural surroundings. It features large playground equipment and observation decks, and is a popular spot where local families come to enjoy picnics. With spacious walking trails and scenic viewpoints throughout the park, it's a relaxing place where you can easily spend the entire day.

A Day to Truly Feel the Connection

Roundtable Session & Trial Lesson



The curiosity and mindset nurtured at Kinder Kids naturally carry over into elementary school. To help families experience this sense of **seamless, continuous learning**, Infinity Elementary School hosted a roundtable session and a trial lesson. During the roundtable, parents deepened their understanding of Infinity’s educational philosophy, while the trial lesson gave children a hands-on sense of how fun learning can be—making it a truly fulfilling day for all.

Building Connection Through Dialogue With Parents

This year, Infinity Global Elementary School has been visiting Kinder Kids campuses to hold trial lessons for K3 students and roundtable sessions for their parents. Infinity is designed as a natural continuation of the learning fostered at Kinder Kids.

We intentionally refer to these sessions as “roundtables” rather than “briefings,” emphasizing open dialogue in a relaxed atmosphere. While introducing our curriculum and educational direction, we received many candid thoughts and questions from parents regarding their family’s approach to education and school choices, resulting in meaningful mutual understanding.

What Parents’ Voices Revealed About Future Collaboration

One of the most frequently asked questions during the roundtable was about junior high school options. When parents inquired about specific pathways—such as whether enrollment in public or national junior high schools is possible—we carefully explained our core approach, which includes individualized guidance tailored to each student, rather than presenting a standardized route, and our commitment to responding flexibly to each family’s preferences.

Many parents also said it was their first time learning about the existence of the elementary school, which prompted us to reflect on how we communicate information. At the same time, some shared comments like: “I was reassured to hear that there are graduates and former Kinder Kids teachers on staff,” and “There’s something nostalgic about the classroom atmosphere and the teachers.” These remarks gave us confidence that families felt the continuity between early childhood and primary education, as well as a sense of cohesiveness in the learning environment.

What Infinity aims to achieve is to firmly connect the foundations of early childhood learning and support children in developing their potential freely as they move on to the next stage. We believe this roundtable



During the roundtable session, Infinity Elementary’s distinctive curriculum and its balance with Japanese instruction were explained in detail.

served as an opportunity to convey that philosophy.

Unique Learning at Infinity: Balanced Education through IPC and Japanese



At Infinity Elementary School, we follow the International Primary Curriculum (IPC)—a globally recognized program based on the learning goals of the UK’s National Curriculum.

Emphasis on reading, writing, and comprehension in English

Interdisciplinary inquiry-based projects that connect learning across ten subject areas

Alongside English instruction, Japanese language and math are equally prioritized to build the ability to think and express ideas in Japanese

A curriculum designed to connect early childhood exploratory learning naturally to primary education

By valuing a balanced approach to English and Japanese, we aim to equip children with the tools to expand their future academic and career opportunities.

Nurturing a Spirit of Inquiry Through Joyful Exploration

In the trial lesson for K3 children, the focus was placed on developing “Communicator” skills—one of the eight Personal Learning Goals (PLGs) set by Infinity Elementary.

The lesson was carefully designed to draw out the children’s thinking and budding curiosity.

For the Infinity teacher leading the class, it was also a valuable opportunity to directly observe the children’s reactions.

The lesson began with a picture book in English about an owl that couldn’t sleep at night and reacts sensitively to sounds and light.

This naturally sparked the children’s interest in the world of light and sensory experiences.

In the following activity, questions such as “Where does daylight come from?”, “What about moonlight?”, and “What about the light from a flashlight?” prompted dialogues that encouraged children to imagine and hypothesize about the true nature and characteristics of light, using their own words to deepen their thinking.

The lesson culminated in free exploration.

Children observed how light changed using colored cellophane and colored water, and they experimented with how overlapping materials affected shadows.

They were introduced to slightly challenging vocabulary like “transparent” and “opaque”, and used various plastic materials, paper, and prisms to explore how light passes through, reflects off, or is blocked by



Through a story about an owl sensitive to sound and light, children were naturally guided to explore and become curious about the nature of light.



Using mouse-shaped cards made from different materials, children experienced how light passes through and how shadows are formed in various ways.

different materials.

Through hands-on (experiential) learning, the children became fully engaged and naturally developed an eagerness and enjoyment for learning.

With smiles on their faces from start to finish, the children likely noticed the light around them at home that evening in a new and different way.



Alongside vocabulary like “transparent,” “translucent,” and “opaque,” children deepened their visual understanding of the properties of light.



Infinity’s 8 Personal Learning Goals (PLGs)

At Infinity Elementary School, we follow the philosophy of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and promote 8 Personal Learning Goals that nurture children’s character and life skills. These goals aim to foster the following abilities in a well-balanced manner:

Adaptable

Ability to accept and adjust

Collaborator

Ability to work with others

Communicator

Ability to express and engage in dialogue

Empathetic

Ability to show compassion and understanding

Ethical

Ability to make fair and principled decisions

Resilient

Ability to persevere

Respectful

Ability to value others

Thinker

Ability to think deeply and critically

A Message from Infinity Elementary School

At Infinity Elementary, we embrace the philosophy of “a school where everyone can find happiness,” and aim to naturally extend the learning nurtured at Kinder Kids into primary education. Our goal is to **raise children who can live happily anywhere in the world**. We strive to nurture the ability to think independently, engage in dialogue, and take action without fear—guided by a global perspective and a strong sense of ethics.

To achieve this, we provide a continuous English-language environment while also placing great value on self-understanding and expression in Japanese. Through roundtable sessions and trial lessons, we hope to inspire children to say, “I want to go to Infinity!” And for parents, we hope it becomes a place where they feel, “This is where I can entrust my child’s future.”

Together with Kinder Kids, we will continue to create learning that brings out the potential of each and every child. Let us walk together in supporting the children who will shape the future.

Infinity Global Elementary School – 2026 Admissions Information

- Number of Openings : A limited number of spots for boys and girls
- Eligibility : Applicants must be born between April 2, 2019 and April 1, 2020, and currently enrolled in Kinder Kids or another English-language preschool.
- Application Period : From Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM to Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM
- Selection Dates : Applicants will be scheduled on either Friday, August 22 or Saturday, August 23, 2025
- Selection Venue : Infinity Global Elementary School
- Notification of Results : An email will be sent to the email address provided at the time of application on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. Results will also be posted in the “2026 Admissions Information” section of our website (QR code provided).
- Application Form : See the “2026 Admissions Information” page (QR code on the right).
- How to Apply : Applications must be submitted online. Please note that paper applications will not be accepted.

Scan the QR code for full 2026 admissions details.



Check out our latest updates on Instagram!



Carrying the Spirit of “∞”

Celebrating 25 Years: Our Anniversary Logo and Commemorative Uniform



Marking Our 25th Year

Kinder Kids celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025, a major milestone since our founding in 2000.

To express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us along the way and to look ahead into the future, we created a special anniversary logo.

Designed by a Kinder Kids Graduate!

The logo was designed by Yutaro Daichi, a Kinder Kids graduate and now the founder and creative director of the design firm Syndva.

Wanting to honor his roots, he happily took on the project to help mark this important occasion.

The Meaning Behind the Logo

The design features a combination of the number “25”, the infinity symbol “∞”, and the owl face from the Kinder Kids emblem.

It reflects our hope for the future, the wisdom of the past, and the idea of limitless growth and potential.

A Special Uniform to Match!

We also created a commemorative uniform featuring the anniversary logo.

You’ll see our staff wearing it during school events and in photos throughout the year.

If you spot it, take a closer look—it’s part of this very special celebration!



25th Anniversary Celebration!

Kinder Kids is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year!

To show our appreciation to everyone

who has supported the growth of our children,
we've planned a series of exciting events across all regions.

We hope you'll join us in making lasting memories
during this special year!



Kansai

Kinder Aloha Carnival

Enjoy a tropical Hawaiian-style party with your family at this two-part event featuring a lunch session and a dinner session! Surrounded by the relaxed atmosphere of the islands, guests can look forward to hula performances, lei giveaways, traditional Japanese festival-style booths, and more. In the evening, colorful fireworks will light up the sky to bring even more excitement to the celebration!

Date Saturday, August 30, 2025
[Lunch Session] 10:00-14:00 (Ideal for younger children)
[Dinner Session] 16:00-20:00

Location Kinder Kids Kobe Seaside School

Eligibility Kinder Kids current and former students and their families

Highlights Meals, snacks, desserts, and soft drinks included (Alcohol will also be available during the dinner session) Festival-style activities, photo booths, and more



Kanto

Family Luncheon

Join us for a relaxing family luncheon surrounded by the lush greenery of Baji Koen. Enjoy a delicious lunch buffet along with fun activities such as a stamp rally, photo booth, and commemorative gifts. This special event offers a warm and memorable time for children and their families alike.

Date Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:00-13:30 (tentative)

Location Restaurant inside Baji Koen

Eligibility Kinder Kids current and former students and their families

Highlights Meals, snacks, desserts, and soft drinks included
Stamp rally, photo booth,
commemorative gift giveaways, and more



Nationwide

Kinder Kids 25th Anniversary Golf Tournament

Enjoy a special day of golf and celebration! After a buffet-style lunch and play, join us for an award ceremony and party. Fun challenges and a prize drawing will also be held. Take this opportunity to visit Osaka—combine it with a trip to Expo 2025!

Date Thursday, September 25, 2025 – Starting from around 7:30 AM

Venue Taishi Country Club (Osaka) **Private reservation**

Eligibility Parents and guardians of current and former students (from all Kinder Kids campuses, Infinity, and Grad Club)

Format Stroke play (regular start)

Fee Green fee + competition entry fee



Kansai

Awaza Festival 2025

Enjoy a fun-filled day with your family featuring crafts, outdoor activities, food trucks, photo booths, and more! A live performance by the Moon Rockers is also scheduled.

Date Monday, September 15, 2025 (Public Holiday)
• Morning Session: 10:00-12:30
• Afternoon Session: 13:30-16:00

Venue Kinder Kids Awaza School and surrounding area

Eligibility Kinder Kids, Grad Club, and Infinity students and their families

Highlights Craft workshops, outdoor activities,
food trucks, photo booths, stage performance, and more



Fukuoka

Fukuoka Festival

Our first-ever festival at Fukuoka School! Enjoy food stalls, crafts, and games — plus, Excited Fox will be making his first appearance in Fukuoka! All proceeds from the charity bazaar will be donated to support children in Cambodia through Kinder Kids' ongoing initiatives.

Date Friday, November 7, 2025
9:30-12:00 (for Baby-K1) 13:00-15:30 (for K2-Grad)

Location Kinder Kids Fukuoka School

Eligibility Kinder Kids and Grad Club students and their families

Highlights Festival-style games, craft activities, charity bazaar, and more (Tickets must be purchased in advance.)

