

Cover: Craft "A Cozy Onsen Moment Together"

At this steamy hot spring, the monkeys and children sit side by side, sharing a peaceful moment of relaxation.

Even in the chilly season, the scene feels warmly soothing, as gentle time flows by.

From the expressive monkeys to the softly rising steam, you can sense the unique warmth and kindness of an onsen.

Just looking at it fills the heart with comfort, spreading a calm and tender atmosphere.

Expanding future possibilities

Hirakû

43

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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★Crossing Paths Again<File1> ★Voices of Tomorrow Speech Contest
★25th Anniversary Special Report ★Parent Survey Results



日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.

Crossing Paths Again

〈File 1〉

Revisiting Kinder Kids children once featured in Hiraku, as they continue their journey of growth.

Five years ago, Hiraku featured T.I., who spent his early childhood at Kinder Kids before moving to France halfway through K3.

One day, we received an email from T.I.'s mother. In her message, she shared that after moving to France, T.I. advanced to a local school through grade acceleration. Even as his environment changed—living and learning in Ireland and later Germany—he continued to achieve top-level results in mathematics, physics, and English. She also wrote that one of his teachers had commented:

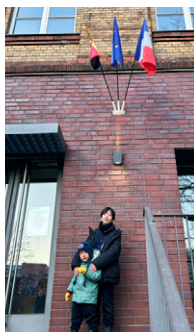
“It is remarkable how much he has grown without parental intervention—this must be thanks to the excellent educational environment he had up to the age of six.”

“Up to the age of six”—that was precisely the time T.I. spent learning at Kinder Kids. Encouraged by his mother's words, “I want to express my gratitude once again,” Hiraku now follows T.I.'s journey since then—his story after Kinder Kids.



Nishinomiya Kitaguchi School
Former Student
T.I. (Age 11)
École Voltaire Berlin

A Life of Learning Across Borders



T.I. is currently attending school in Europe. Having studied in several countries—France, Ireland, and Germany—he spends each day experiencing different languages and cultures.

At school, he mainly learns in English while also working hard on French and German. He shared with us, “I enjoy being able to understand new words.”

T.I. is especially passionate about mathematics. Drawn to the universal enjoyment of thinking and problem solving, he is engaging in lessons with a positive and proactive attitude.



Staying True to Himself in New Environments

Each time he changes countries or schools, it naturally takes time to adjust to a new environment. Even so, T.I. has navigated these transitions in his own natural way, by saying, “I try to talk to people first” and “If I do not understand something, I ask,” as he reaches out and connects with those around him.



What is École Voltaire Berlin?

École Voltaire Berlin is a French international school located in Berlin.

Following the French national curriculum, classes are conducted primarily in French. With students from around the world, children deepen their learning in a multicultural environment.



When making new friends, what he values most is simply “being kind.” Rather than trying to do anything special, he says he usually begins by “trying things together.”

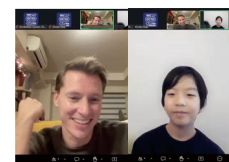
This kind of mindset is something he has developed since early childhood. Even when the language is different, his ability to enjoy connecting with others continues to support him in his life at school today.



On his birthday, he celebrated by sharing handmade sushi rolls with his classmates.

The Foundation Built at Kinder Kids

What T.I. feels continues to be helpful even today is his attitude of not being afraid to speak and his willingness to express his own thoughts. He also shares that the rules and manners he learned through interactions with teachers and friends, as well as the ability to switch gears and focus when it is time to concentrate, have become second nature to him. He says that being able to face tests and new challenges with a positive “I will give it a try” mindset is something he owes to his experiences during his time at Kinder Kids. During this interview, we also had the opportunity to arrange an online reunion with Robert, one of his homeroom teachers during his time at Kinder Kids. Through their exchange on screen, it was clear that the learning and the connection with his teacher from those days still remain with T.I. today.



Reuniting online with Robert, a beloved former teacher

Even beyond their time at Kinder Kids, each child continues to grow.

Once a Kinder Kid, always a Kinder Kid.

In the spirit of those words, we will gently continue to look toward the journey “after,” as it continues on.



A letter he wrote to Robert while at Kinder Kids



A mother's perspective on her son's growth

Each time we moved overseas, choosing a school came with its share of challenges, but as parents, it was a great source of reassurance that He could communicate with anyone in English. He also loves mathematics, so wherever we live, he continues to learn with confidence—always having a subject he is good at—and that has been truly reassuring to see. At present, we generally leave both his studies and daily life decisions to him. During his time at Kinder Kids, we shared everything we could, and now we hope he will think for himself and act on his own judgment. There are times when he still turns to us for help, and when he does, we support him fully. But day to day, we trust in his ability and continue to watch over him.

Voices of Tomorrow

SPEECH CONTEST 2025



Function Room 1
Voice of Tomorrow
Speech Contest

12:00-15:00

2025.11.30 SUN. Venue: Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ)

The 2nd "Voices of Tomorrow" is Held!

This year, the 2nd English speech contest "Voices of Tomorrow" was held once again at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ). Co-hosted by Kinder Kids, Global Step Academy, and The International School Times, the contest is becoming a well-established stage where children from across Japan come together to deliver speeches reflecting what they have learned.



The judging panel once again included Elliot Conti, Executive Director of the Prometheus Foundation, international education critic Manabu Murata, and Head Judge Dave McCombs. This year we also welcomed Tomoyuki Amano, Director at ALC Co., Ltd., who selected and presented the "ALC Award." The event was hosted for a second year in a row by bilingual MC Mai Shoji, who warmly supported the nervous children while skillfully switching between English and Japanese, creating an inviting atmosphere that engaged both parents and judges alike.

Diverse Voices Gathered on One Stage

Children from a wide range of backgrounds took part in this year's contest, including those from private elementary schools, English conversation schools, international schools, and individual participants. Some even traveled from distant prefectures such as Kochi and Miyagi. It was especially memorable to see them incorporating props and costumes as they explored their own unique ways of expressing themselves.

On stage, even when a speaker momentarily struggled to find the right words, not a single child gave up. Each participant spoke with confidence to the very end. Their courage to continue expressing themselves without being shaken by mistakes was truly impressive—earning warm applause from the audience again and again.

This year's original category theme was "To my 25-year-old self."

The Grand Prize was awarded to second-grade student K.O., whose



outstanding pronunciation, calm presence, and poise beyond their years captivated the entire audience. Throughout the venue, children could also be heard saying to one another, "Let's come again next year," reminding us that this contest also serves as a place where new encounters and friendships are formed. English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. We believe that the experience of sharing one's thoughts and values through this language becomes a powerful strength for children. We hope that next year, even more children will step onto this stage and express their own words with confidence.



To all children taking on the challenge of Voices of Tomorrow

Today's world is becoming more connected than ever, crossing borders and bringing people closer together. In such an era, the ability to express your own ideas in English and communicate them confidently in front of others is an essential skill for children growing up in the years ahead.

As technology continues to evolve, the value of sharing a message through the "human voice" becomes even greater. This year's speeches were impressive not only in pronunciation and rhythm, but also in the way many participants delivered well-structured speeches with compelling "stories" that naturally drew in the audience.

Starting a new challenge is never easy, especially in the midst of busy daily life. However, this contest is an experience I truly encourage every child to take on. Both the preparation process and the moment on stage will surely lead to meaningful learning and greater confidence.

The energy that fills the venue, along with the original speeches created by the children, brings positive inspiration to everyone involved. I hope you will join us and become part of this wonderful experience.



Chief Judge

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ)
Former Director of the FCCJ
Dave McCombs

Message from the Event Staff



Grad Club
Yui Sekiguchi

The Growth We Witnessed Beyond the Challenge

This year's speech contest left me deeply impressed and I was moved by the overall high level of performances. Not only were the children's English pronunciation and expressive skills impressive as they echoed through the microphone, but what stood out most was the sight of them stepping onto the stage with confidence—speaking boldly and even enjoying the moment.

Having seen their nervous faces backstage, it made their growth during the actual performance all the more meaningful to witness.

Memorizing and delivering a speech in English, which is not their first language, while confidently using gestures and expressions, must have required tremendous practice and effort. I sincerely hope that each step of that challenge will continue to build lasting confidence in every child.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all parents and guardians. Without your continued support, encouragement, and warm guidance each day, this stage would not have been possible.



25th Anniversary Events Special Report

To celebrate Kinder Kids' 25th anniversary, cheerful events filled with smiles were held across Japan! Here, we bring you highlights from two events that took place between November and December.



So exciting!

Fukuoka Festival @Fukuoka School

At Kinder Kids Fukuoka School, the very first "Fukuoka Festival" was held to celebrate our 25th anniversary. A variety of fun booths were set up throughout the venue—including ring toss, target shooting, bowling, a Kinder Kids original crane game, and capsule toy machines — where children enthusiastically took on one challenge after another. Our beloved character, Excited Fox, also made a special first appearance at the Fukuoka School, and the venue was filled with cheers and excitement. Craft activities and photo spots that families could enjoy together were also a big hit, making it a truly special day where smiles naturally spread among children, parents, and staff alike.

At the charity bazaar held on the day, we received ¥59,244 in donations. Proceeds will be used to support Kinder Kids' ongoing school assistance program in Cambodia.

A super popular mascot scooping game! How many can you catch?



Grad Christmas Party

To celebrate Kinder Kids' 25th anniversary, a special Christmas event was held at Universal Studios Japan (USJ). This year, not only Grad Club children but also families from schools across Japan—including campuses in Kansai as well as Setagaya School, Fukuoka School, and Nagoya School—joined the celebration, making it a truly memorable day. During the event, everyone enjoyed delicious meals while watching magic shows and performances by USJ staff. There was also time for parent-child dance activities, and the venue was filled with excitement. As one dazzling performance followed another, the children watched with shining eyes, completely captivated. Many parents shared that it was "even more impressive than expected." It was also a valuable opportunity for families from different schools to connect and share smiles together.

The spectacular stage had the audience cheering with excitement!



Take a commemorative photo with Excited Fox!



We also held Christmas parties in Kanto and Fukuoka!

A 25th Anniversary cruise lunch! With bingo games and views of the Rainbow Bridge from the ship, it turned into a hugely exciting day for the children. in Kanto



We held our very first Christmas Party at Kinder Kids Fukuoka School. The venue was filled with smiles from both children and parents, and many families told us, "We want to join again next time!" in Fukuoka



We will continue to host more and more family-friendly events!

Understanding Kinder Kids today and the road ahead through parent feedback.



Kinder Kids Parent Survey Results 2025

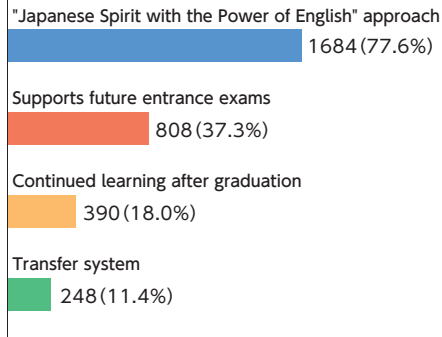
In our 2025 Parent Survey, we received valuable feedback from 2,169 parents (up from 2,065 last year).

In this issue, we are pleased to share selected highlights from the results.

To turn the honest voices of our parents into our next steps, Kinder Kids will continue to sincerely reflect on both our strengths and our challenges, while further refining the quality of our care and education moving forward.



What was the major factor that led to you choosing Kinder Kids?

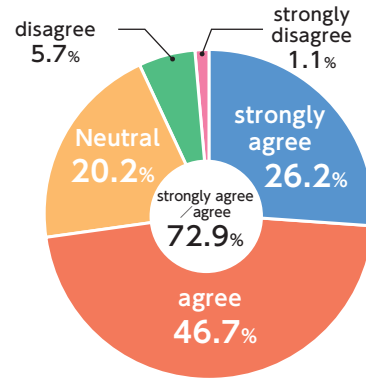


- 1位** Kinder Kids' "Japanese Spirit with the Power of English" approach helps foster my child's overall development.
- 2位** Education at Kinder Kids will support my child's future entrance exams.
- 3位** Kinder Kids' "Path To High School" offers opportunities to continue with the Kinder Kids Group through high school.
- 4位** The option for school transfers across Japan, Hawaii and Canada are appealing to me.

Many parents expressed strong support for Kinder Kids' guiding philosophy: "Japanese Spirit with the Power of English."



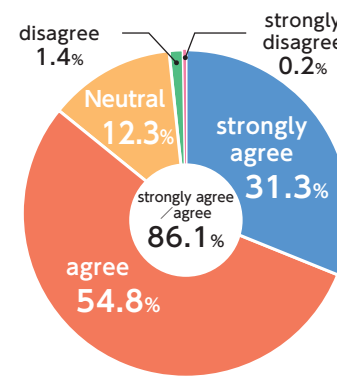
My child talks positively about friends and social time at school.



We found that over 70% of children enjoy talking at home about what happened at school.



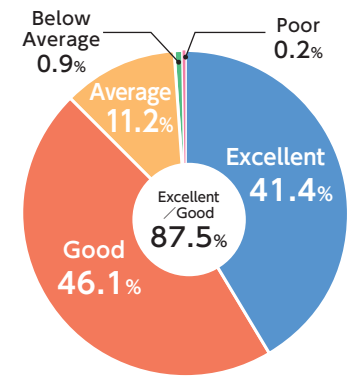
I am satisfied with my child's overall social growth at Kinder Kids.



"I strongly agree" and "I agree" accounted for approximately 86%, indicating that many parents feel their child's social development is being supported at Kinder Kids.



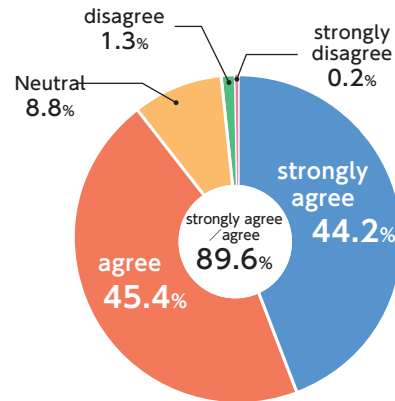
Overall Teacher Quality



Over 85% of parents rated the overall quality of their child's teachers as "Excellent" or "Good."



I am satisfied with my child's engagement in pre-writing activities* (e.g., play dough, threading, painting, etc.).

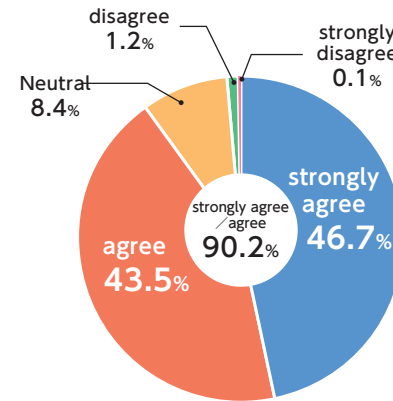


Nearly 90% of parents selected "I strongly agree" or "I agree," showing a high level of satisfaction with pre-writing activities.

* Pre-writing activities to prepare for writing



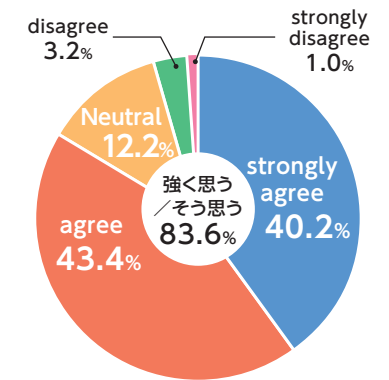
I am satisfied with the overall friendliness of teachers.



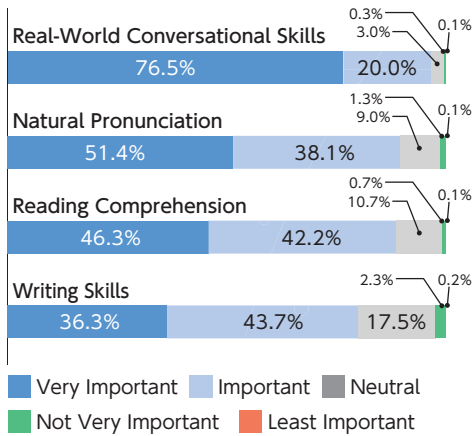
The results show that many parents feel a sense of friendliness from both teachers and office staff. In particular, over 90% of parents responded "I strongly agree" or "I agree" regarding teachers.



I am satisfied with the overall friendliness of the school office staff.

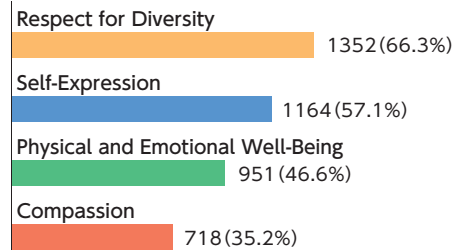


Q Assign each English language skill a priority level ranging from Very Important to Least Important.



Practical conversational skills were rated as the most important, while writing skills tended to be given lower priority compared to the other areas.

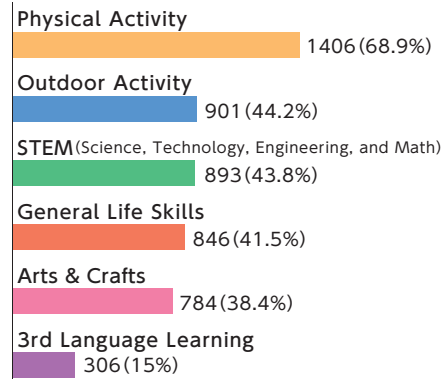
Q Which of the following educational philosophies do you believe Kinder Kids is successfully putting into practice?



- 1位 Develop respect for human diversity through experiences with different cultures
- 2位 Children who can clearly express themselves
- 3位 Children who are emotionally and physically healthy
- 4位 Raise a considerate child

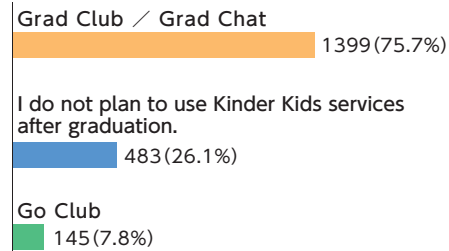
“Respect for Diversity” was selected as the top choice, followed by “Self-Expression.” These results suggest that Kinder Kids’ daily educational approach is helping children develop a deeper understanding of diversity and strengthen their ability to express themselves—something many parents recognize and appreciate.

Q Besides English, which of the following skills/classes would you like Kinder Kids to offer more of?



Many parents again expressed a strong desire for more opportunities for physical activity and outdoor time.

Q Plans to Continue with Kinder Kids



Over 75% of parents are considering enrolling in Grad Club after their child graduates from Kinder Kids.

Positive Feedback from Parents

In this survey, we received many positive comments from parents. Below, we would like to share some representative feedback.



Children enjoy school and feel safe and secure

We received comments such as:

- Kinder is a bright and welcoming place where my child feels safe.
- My child always looks forward to going to school.
- My child shows no signs of anxiety and seems more confident and emotionally secure.

Warm, caring teachers and attentive support

We received comments such as:

- Teachers understand each child well and treat them with warmth and care.
- There is a strong relationship of trust between teachers and families.
- Teachers listen carefully to children’s worries and provide thoughtful support.

High-quality learning and clear academic progress

We received comments such as:

- Phonics and reading skills have improved significantly.
- Critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, math skills, and Japanese literacy have improved.
- We are seeing positive results in preparation for elementary school admission and interviews.

Challenges Identified Through the Survey and Our Future Initiatives

In the survey, while we received many positive and encouraging comments, we also received feedback regarding the continuity of our teaching staff structure, the clarity of information sharing, and matters related to childcare hours and school operations. In particular, many parents expressed the desire for greater staff retention to support children’s sense of security and the quality of learning, as well as for a stronger communication framework to help families better understand daily activities and schedules.

We take this feedback sincerely and will continue working to enhance staff development and support systems, improve the way we share information, and review our operational practices. We will continue to value open dialogue with our parents as we work to create an environment where you can feel even more confident entrusting your children to us.



*Additional survey results

not included here are available on Kinder+. Please feel free to take a look.



Kinder+