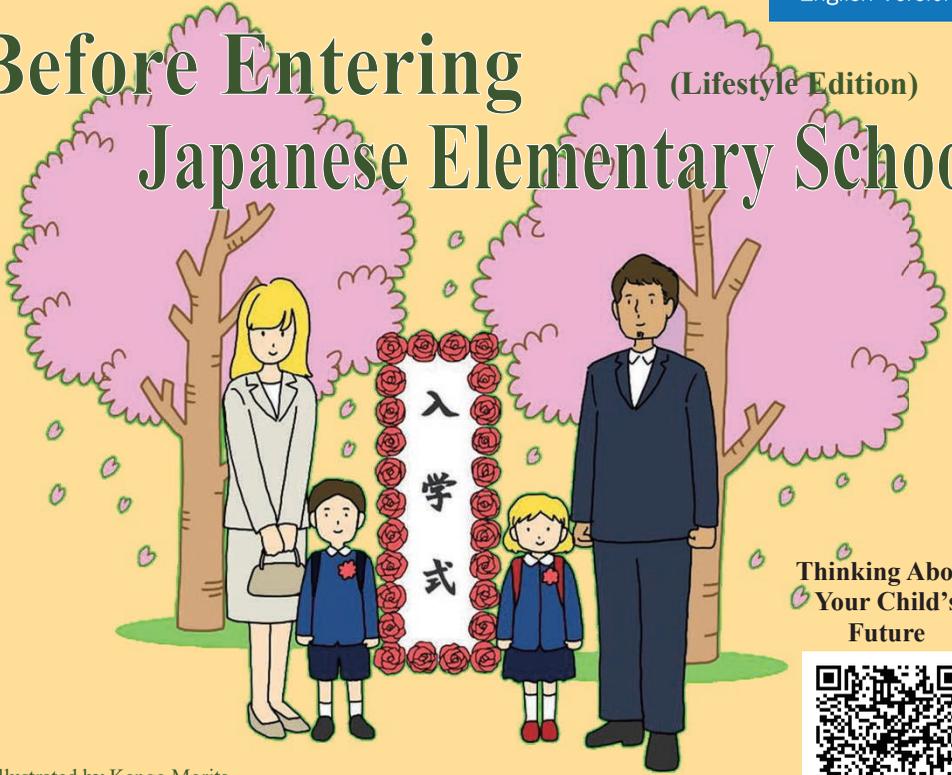


For International Families

# Before Entering Japanese Elementary School

(Lifestyle Edition)



Thinking About  
Your Child's  
Future



Illustrated by Kengo Morita

## Let's go to elementary school!

~Elementary school is where **career education** starts~

Learn what  
you're  
**good at** and  
**bad at**

Learn the  
importance  
of **taking**  
**responsibility**  
for your duties

Do things on a  
**set schedule**

Learn the  
**need for rules**,  
and follow them

These things will help your child learn the attitude they need to develop in order to work in Japan one day. They are difficult to master from family life alone. You want them to get this education now, because now is the best time for them to learn! Their differences in language and culture mean there's a lot they can learn!

**Now, let's go to school!**

# What's the difference?

## Elementary vs. Kindergarten/Day Care

### Coming & Going

In a group



Bus

Escorted by a Guardian



There is a set route from your home to school designed for your child to commute to school safely. It's called the school road (tsuugakuro).

Kindergarten/Day Care

Elementary

Child by him/herself

The elementary school tells you about your child's belongings and homework. These notes are in the correspondence notebook (renrackuchou), so check them with your child each day.

### How You Spend the Day

-Learning subjects -Duties, etc.  
The day progresses according to a schedule.

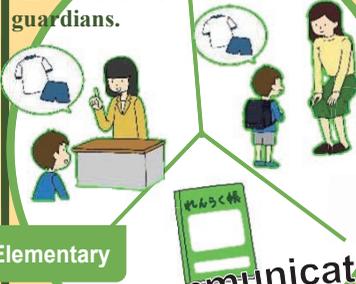


Elementary



Kindergarten/Day Care

Teachers tell children, and children tell guardians.



Elementary



Kindergarten/Day Care

### Communication from Teachers



### Go to school every day!

Unless they're sick, try not to let children stay home from school! If they don't attend, they won't understand the class material. Absences also influence their relationships with friends and their motivation to participate in school life. While they may need to help out at home or take care of their siblings, it's important for you to create an environment where they can confidently attend school and enjoy it!

# Must-knows before they start school...

## Can they do it? Let's check! ✓

If they can't do some of these yet, it's best to practice before they start school!

- Go to bed early and get up early at a set time every day

Getting enough sleep increases the appetite for learning. It's best for your child to develop a habit of going to sleep by 9:00 pm.



- Change clothes without help

- Use chopsticks, and eat a meal in under 20 minutes

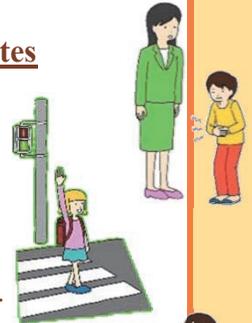
- Say their own name

- Answer "yes" (hai) when their name is called

- Tell someone when they're having trouble

I want to go to the bathroom.     My stomach hurts.

I don't feel well.



- Obey traffic rules

Obey traffic lights     Use the crosswalk after looking both ways

- Say "thank you" (arigatou) and "I'm sorry" (gomen nasai)



- Don't do dangerous things



### ~For Mothers and Fathers~

- Make sure you know how to contact the school by phone when your child will be absent, be late, or leave early.
- For your child's sake, put some thought into whether they will be staying in Japan long enough to advance in school/find employment, or whether you will be going back to your home country.



Contacting the  
Elementary School

## ~Strange things about Japanese Elementary Schools~

### They got mad at me for bringing a snack!

You aren't allowed to bring snacks to school. There is a rule that says, "Don't bring things that aren't needed for studying." If you tend to get hungry, make sure you eat all of your breakfast and your school lunch!



### They made me clean the school!

In Japan, children clean their schools themselves. Cleaning for themselves fosters an attitude of "taking care of things" and "using things neatly."

### There's too much homework every day!

Start good study habits at a young age. It's important to study not only at school, but on independently at home. If others in the home say, "Let's do homework" and keep the child company, that may be all they need to feel comfortable tackling the day's homework.



### Parent-child communication is important!

Once your child enters elementary school, actively ask them how things are going at school. Good parent-child conversations have lots of benefits. For example:

① You'll know how school is going. ② The child will acquire their native language. ③ It'll be easier to grasp what the child is struggling with at school.

And more... Regular good communication also makes it easier to seek help if and when your child is really in trouble. Try to create an environment where your child feels free to talk to you about happy things or upsetting things.



Languages  
Used  
at Home

Resource Room for Schoolchildren from Overseas, Aichi University of Education

1 Hirasawa, Igaya-cho, Kariya-shi, Aichi, 448-8542 Tel: 0566-26-2219 Fax: 0566-26-2566  
e-mail: [gendaigp@aecc.aichi-edu.ac.jp](mailto:gendaigp@aecc.aichi-edu.ac.jp) HP: <http://www.resource-room.aichi-edu.ac.jp>