

## ~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:

①You'll know how school is going. ②The child will acquire their native language. ③It'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

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For International Families

英語版  
English Version

# Before Entering Japanese Elementary School

(Lifestyle Edition)



Illustrated by Kengo Morita

Thinking About  
Your Child's  
Future



## 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



**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