

Front cover: Craft "Green Caterpillar and Green Leaves"

Our Toddler Class students are becoming more and more independent every day. Their determination to try things by themselves is growing and they are enjoying the challenges at Kinder Kids. They drew happy caterpillar's as Spring is almost here! We hope our children will grow bigger like the hungry caterpillar and then spread their wings and fly like butterflies!

Expanding future possibilities

# Hirakû

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Please share  
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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The era of AI is coming! What are  
"Non-Cognitive skills" and  
how can they be developed in childhood?



## The era of AI is coming! What are “Non-Cognitive skills” and how can they be developed in childhood?

### In the near future, will AI take over half of our jobs?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become more prominent in the media and is increasingly seen around us in our daily lives. As AI becomes more advanced, up to 49% of the labor which has always been performed by humans will potentially be replaced by AI robots meaning half of all the jobs we know today may disappear in the future.

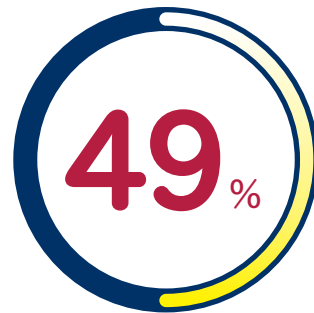
Associate Professor Michael Osborne at Oxford University said: “AI systems and robots will free people from rote work, just as typists were replaced by word processors. Jobs that need creativity and sociality will continue to be performed by people.”\*1

In order to adapt to a new era, embracing and coexisting with AI, instead of fearing it as something that will take over our jobs is important, while emphasizing and developing our exclusively human attributes like creativity and social intelligence.

Considering this, what should we do now to improve these personal skills?

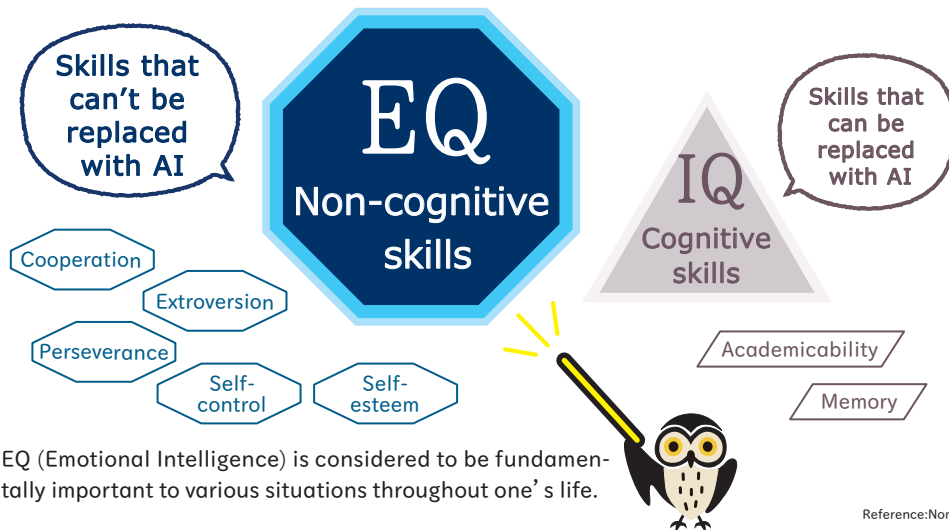
\*1 Quoted from Asahi Newspaper special content “Asahi World Forum 2016”

The proportion of workers at high risk of being replaced with AI



Estimation for 2025-2035 in Japan

### Skills that are necessary to negotiate the AI era



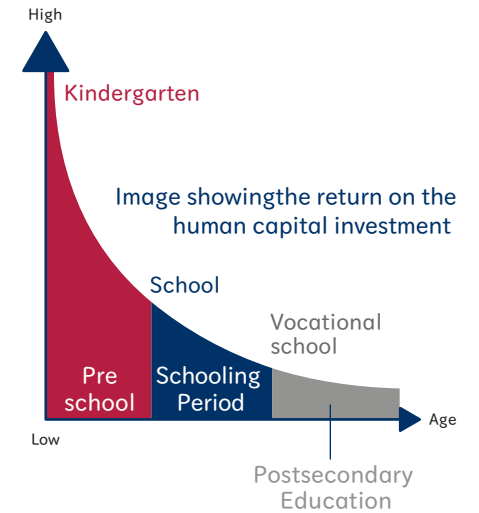
EQ (Emotional Intelligence) is considered to be fundamentally important to various situations throughout one’s life.

### When should we start developing Non-Cognitive skills?

In the 1960’s, the Perry Preschool Project revealed that children who have access to high quality preschool education display a higher IQ, and a higher EQ (Non-Cognitive skills) and this had long term benefits for their welfare, happiness and financial success into adulthood. The stage at which a child begins receiving an education\*2 is important.

As the figure on the right shows, introducing high quality preschool education has a higher return for the individual and society more broadly, and the later that education is introduced, the lower the return and chance of a successful future.

Developing Non-Cognitive skills is fundamental to the development of people skills and the ability to integrate and harmonise in the workplace and in society. Earlier development of these skills through preschool programs has a significant benefit.



\*2 Education includes forming a sense of self, concepts of being healthy and developing a strong body.

### How can we develop Non-cognitive skills?

Non-cognitive skills allow the individual to identify a problem, think through possible solutions, and to try the solutions until one fits. At Kinder Kids, if a child is struggling with a task, we encourage them to think of an alternative method and to try again. As they go through this process they accumulate problem solving experience. They also develop confidence and the courage to persevere without fear of failure. Non-cognitive skills can be nurtured at home too but parents should be aware of how to talk to their children. “Did you do your homework?”, “Did you brush your teeth yet?” We all tell our children what to do don’t we? As a parent like you, I understand the feeling! However, this constant instruction may prevent them from developing their self-control. In this kind of situation, rather than telling them what to do, we could let the child decide by what time they need to complete their homework. Making decisions by themselves will help to develop their sense of responsibility and grow independence. To encourage children to become independent, we should not always sort everything out for them, we should allow children to handle problems on their own as well. These interactions with children at home are essential to developing their non-cognitive skills. Let’s develop our children’s non-cognitive skills together.



Chief Nursery Teacher  
Hiroko Takase



Interview

# Higashi Osaka

School

HP



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2-6-26 Nakashinkai,  
Higashi Osaka-shi, Osaka



Higashi Osaka School Manager Makiko Takahashi

Higashi Osaka school has a homely and inclusive ambience

Because we are a small-sized school, all the teachers know the children individually and the children are very close to each other. We make sure that all the age groups can interact with each other and we're like one big family. Everyone, including teachers, parents and children in this school feel that our school is the best school (haha)! I see that our teachers take pride in their work and that makes me very happy. I also feel very grateful that our parents feel so attached to the school. A characteristic of Higashi Osaka school is that there are many talented teachers. Those talents shine through at the Christmas concert where teachers adept at choreography or creating narratives can help the children sparkle. Our teachers pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm and that atmosphere gives the children confidence in what they can achieve. Children who may have been apprehensive when speaking in public are now able to do so confidently and enjoy playing a role in a play. These outcomes are a combination of the teachers' enthusiasm and the children's capabilities.

I hope that our school will remain a place where each of us acknowledges each other's strengths and each can express their individuality freely. Also, I hope that we can continue to share the joy of seeing the children's growth, or helping to resolve parents' concerns so please feel free to reach us anytime.

## Staff Spotlight



We asked the kids in Higashiosaka School!

What is the best thing about Kinder Kids?

- 1 There are so many friends
- 2 We can speak English
- 3 Teachers are funny/we love our teachers



Interview

# Myrica

School

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Myricahills, 1-23 Senrioka kita,  
Suita-shi, Osaka



Myrica (Suita) Manager Kaori Yamashita

Our school is located in Myrica City which is known as an international city in the Kansai region.

Our school opened as the city was being built and I feel like we have grown up together with the city. We interact with the community a lot through our internship program, field trips to the local schools and playing at the local park every day so have a chance to speak to our friendly neighbours. We are an international school but at the same time we are also a classic local school where the entire city is watching over us. Many children at our school are Long Stay. They spend most of the day at our school so we make sure they feel comfortable and it is a second home for them. Above all, our children and teachers, are bright, cheerful and full of energy! We always try to describe each other's feelings when we interact with children so many of the children can express their feelings very positively. Recently siblings from K3 and Toddler class transferred to our Canada School for a short period. Even though it was their first time to be there and a different culture for them, they didn't have a problem speaking English and they blended in seamlessly and

enjoyed school life every day. I think their outgoing and adaptable personalities developed through interacting with their Myrica teachers and friends. As a locally rooted school, I would like people in the city to know more about Kinder Kids and would like to have more opportunity to interact with parents so please feel free to talk to me anytime.



We asked the kids in Myrica School!

What is the your favorite game?

- 1 LEGO
- 2 London Bridge
- 3 Dance
- 4 The train playground equipment



# Overseas School Report

## Message from Andy Grad Club



CEO Grad Club  
Andy Usher

As we approach the end of the school year we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students and take a moment to reflect on another wonderful and exciting year in Grad Club.

Grad Club is always excited to welcome back all of the students into class and welcome in all of the new students joining from K3. We were particularly excited at the start of this school year with the introduction of our new textbooks into the primary level classes. But Grad Club isn't just about studying, we love seeing you all having so much fun and growing as individuals at our Grad Club events.

Summer is a particularly fun and exciting season for Grad Club. We really hope everyone who joined our summer camps had as much fun as we did. We know many of you enjoyed splashing teachers during water play, singing round the campfire and roasting marshmallows.

Summer is also a big moment for those Grad students who join our Australia Tour. Seeing students going out into the world and living in a native English speaking country for 2 weeks is one of the proudest moments we have. We really believe it is amazing how well the students cope with living with an Australian family, attending an Australian elementary school and making new friends in another part of the world.

Another event which always impresses is the Grad Club Speech Contest. To see students standing on stage and reciting speeches in a second language really does show us how brave, amazing and talented you all are.

It really has been another wonderful year in Grad Club and we enjoyed seeing you at every opportunity in our weekly lessons and Grad events. Grad Club looks forward to continuing to support all of your English education and we hope to see as many of you as possible at all future Grad Club events.

Andy Usher



## Hawaii school held an Open House!

On January 26th, Hawaii Kai school had an Open House and more than 100 people from the local area came to visit.

Kinder Kids' Principal, Wayne, gave presentations about Kinder Kids' curriculum and educational philosophy. Participants listened attentively and were impressed with our unique and innovative education system.

During the presentations, the participants children were cared for by the Kinder Kids Hawaii teachers and had a great time talking, playing and making craft together. There were also balloons, tattoo stickers and a one-day firefighter experience! Four local firefighters attended and everybody was so excited to see them. The children were very curious about the fire engine, its lights, siren and equipment. There was also a photo booth in the school where families could pose with a mock fire engine and take the pictures home in a photo frame as a souvenir.

Parents came away with a good impression and high expectations for Kinder Kids Hawaii School. Many of them now want to enrol and we are really looking forward to having a big Kinder Kids family in Hawaii too!

