

Frontpage: "Koi-nobori" craft

Many Koi-nobori have appeared again at Kinder Kids school this year.

They may seem to be similar, but if you look at them closely,

the shapes and the patterns of the fins are different and unique.

They have comical expressions, but they seem to be boldly flying in the sky.

We hope all students grow up big and strong like their Koi-nobori!

**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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**Hiraku**

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Expanding future possibilities

# Hiraku

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**The new Elementary School established by Kinder Kids, opened in April**

**Interview with new employees who are graduates of Kinder Kids**

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**GradClub New Leader Message & New G1Camp Report**

日本の心と、英語の力。Kinder Kids inc.



# Infinity Global Elementary School finally opened

Infinity Global Elementary School, which was developed by Kinder Kids, opened with their first entrance ceremony on April 11, 2022. The greatest feature of our school is the educational method that adopts eight unique systems such as multilingual education in English, Japanese and Chinese, subject-based specialist teaching system, project-based hands on learning, and financial education, and it's an unprecedented type of global school. In these uncertain times, we aim to create "a School where everyone can be happy", as a guide for children to develop a strong will and to open up their future.



## Motivation for school establishment

Our aim is to nurture our children to become bilingual and have an international perspective and a broad view of the world, under our school policy of "Japanese Spirit with an International Future". Kimiko Nakayama, the director of the school, who experienced first-hand raising her children in a rapidly changing world, felt a sense of crisis that Japanese old education system may be left behind by other countries, and started searching for a school that was working on "how to help children develop the skills that only humans have" and "how to solve the problem of increasing truancy". But she couldn't find any. So she felt, "I'll make it if there isn't any!", with the same feeling as Kinder Kids was established. Kinder Kids opened the new elementary school in collaboration with Infinity Global School (Principle Otani). A school that has the same desire to change the common sense of the education system, and in April 2022, at the same time as elementary school, Infinity Global School opened the new junior high school. We together support global education that is linked from preschool to high school.



From the left: Kimiko Nakayama, Director., Ian Mackenzie, Principal., Masaki Otani, Principal



Memorable first-year enrolled students

## Eight core programs

In order to make the best use of the abilities acquired at Kinder Kids, such as high level of English skills, inquisitive mind, and ability to speak out in public, the elementary school will focus on the following eight programs.

- ① Multilingual education in English, Japanese and Chinese
- ② Skill-based class placement (individual / group)
- ③ Subject-based specialist teaching and tutor support system
- ④ Project-based learning system (individual / group)
- ⑤ Reading enhancement program (extensive reading, speed reading, English/Japanese/Chinese reading comprehension)
- ⑥ History, Geography and Social studies through traveling
- ⑦ ICT-based learning
- ⑧ Financial education

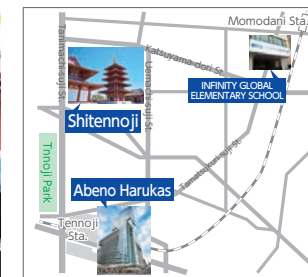


ICT lessons on the electronic blackboard

## First excursion

In April, We visited Shitenno-ji Temple and Abeno Harukas near the elementary school campus in preparation for one of the core programs of the elementary school, "Travel around Japan".

Children who visited both the historic building and the tallest building in Japan felt the flow of human history at high speed. There were various discoveries in familiar places!



For 2023 Admission Information Session, please check the Elementary School homepage or Kinder +  
1-2-22 Karasugatsuji, Tennoji-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka  
(Located on the ground of the Kinder Kids Academy Tennoji Yuhigaoka School)

HP



Kinder+





# Welcome on board

Everyday is fun at Kinder Kids  
I am delighted to have a chance  
to do things to make children happy  
from now on

When I was attending Kinder Kids, I really enjoyed the daily dance lessons. I also remember singing ABBA's "Money, Money, Money" while holding a bill with the teacher's face on it in the play for the K3 Christmas Concert.

After graduation, I attended Saturday class for about two years, and then I studied English using English workbooks. Then, when I was a student who was crazy about K-POP, I went to Korea and made full use of my English to make up for my lack of Korean language ability. My strongest motivation to apply for Kinder Kids was that I didn't want to lose my English skills by not using it, and also I have a long-lasting memory that every day was fun when I was attending Kinder Kids.

Now that I'm working as a cover teacher, I don't have much time to interact with children as homeroom teachers, but I'm trying my best to get the children I meet every day to think "I want to meet Miku".



**Miku Nishimura**  
Cover Teacher

**[Graduated]**  
Kinder Kids Nishinomiya School  
(in 2006, transferred from Ashiya School)

**[Educational Background]**  
Public elementary school →  
Integrated private middle and  
high school → Doshisha University



**Konomi Nakayama**  
Nara Tomigaoka School  
(K1 Homeroom teacher)

**[Graduated]**  
Kinder Kids Higashi Osaka School (in 2003)

**[Educational Background]**  
Public elementary school →  
Public junior high school →  
Public high school →  
Kwansei Gakuin University

I want to help children improve  
their English skills beyond the  
expectations of their parents

I didn't feel like I was studying at Kinder Kids. On the contrary, I just enjoyed playing and speaking with my friends in English and naturally gained English abilities without realizing it.

After I graduated from Kinder Kids, I enrolled in an international primary school and attended summer school abroad during summer holidays.

I had many opportunities to homestay in foreign countries, but when I worked part-time in the online section, I realized that my English level had dropped and I started to think about how to brush up my English skills once again.

I also like children, so I decided to become a preschool teacher.

I want to improve children's English level beyond the expectations of both the children themselves and their parents. In order to do that, I think it is important for preschool teachers to actively talk to them and teach them various things.

## Interview with new employees who are graduates of Kinder Kids

This spring, four Kinder Kids graduates returned to Kinder Kids as new employees. These former Kinder kids preschoolers are now our fellow co-workers. They frankly talked about their memories of preschool, how they studied English after graduation, what were their motivations for working at Kinder Kids and their aspirations for the future.

I will keep trying new things  
and light a fire in the kids' curiosity

At Kinder Kids, I was happy to be given the role of "Grumpy" in the play "Snow White". It is a wonderful memory that the entire class worked together.

After graduating from Kinder Kids, I enrolled in an international elementary school but in junior and senior high schools, both were completely Japanese speaking environments and my English speaking ability declined.

However, I focused on improving my reading and writing skills in the junior and senior high school classes.

At university, I joined a group of international students and spoke English with them, and gradually regained my English skills that I naturally acquired as a child.

Now I am able to speak English without any difficulty.



**Akifumi Nakayama**  
Infinity Global Elementary School

**[Graduated]**  
Kinder Kids Osaka School (in 2004)

**[Educational Background]**  
International elementary school  
→ Integrated private middle and  
high school → Kobe University



**Shane McDonald**  
Online Team

**[Graduated]**  
Kinder Kids Ashiya School (in 2005)

**[Educational Background]**  
Elementary and junior high  
schools in Japan, Canada and  
the United Kingdom →  
Lewes Sussex Downs College

My ambition was to join this company  
because I realized that Kinder Kids  
was a place where I could make  
the most of what I am good at

I remember I really enjoyed drawing and doing crafts at Kinder Kids. I was always looking forward to going to Kinder Kids because the teachers were kind and I could make many friends.

After graduating from Kinder Kids, I moved to Canada and after that to the United Kingdom. I was always in an English-speaking environment, so I think my English ability hasn't declined. I kept studying English but I suppose I was able to adapt quickly to my new place abroad because the environment I grew up in Kinder Kids already helped me to improve my language level.

I wanted to join the Online team because I was confident that I could use my own skills as a video creator. I want to further improve my current field of expertise while playing an active role in all other aspects.



## Entrant

Y.K ちゃん

School	Tokyo Honko	Grade at exam	G1
Test date	January 2022 (The Third exam 2021)		
Grade	Level 2		

### How I studied

To prepare for the exam, I took Eiken short-term preparation lessons online before taking the EIKEN Grade Pre-2 test. Then, I took Eiken Study Grade2 video lessons before taking the EIKEN Grade2 test. I enjoyed studying Eiken Online's private lessons because I could study at my own pace.

The writing course was very easy to understand because each time my composition about various difficult topics were corrected and explained in detail. It was great that Eiken Study lessons were done in English. Some Japanese words are still difficult for me to understand, but explanations in English are easier to understand when I encounter words and things that I don't know.

I love the Eiken Study because the teachers always encourage children by making it exciting and enjoyable. I also enjoy music played during the lesson, which makes me feel excited!



### Family support for current theme issues How I studied

As preparation for the EIKEN Grade Pre-2 exam, which deals with current affairs that require knowledge of social activities and common sense, I bought a book called "Super training for Writing" published by Obunsha that covered a wide range of topics, and I talked about each topic in Japanese.

Also, as preparation for the EIKEN Grade 2 exam, I tried to acquire and understand the necessary knowledge that dealt with the past questions of the writing and speaking test.

### What do you like about Kinder Kids!

I think that listening to English which I naturally acquired while attending Kinder Kids and plenty of words that I learned through playing games helped me pass the Eiken exam.

### Message for peers who are studying

Apart from the listening test, there were many words I didn't know and also the sentences were difficult, so I was almost discouraged, but thanks to my friends who took the exam together with me, I was encouraged and could do my best without giving up. Everyone, find friends who can study hard together and continue studying English while having fun.

### 【Message from her Eiken teacher】

She successfully passed the Eiken pre-2 and grade 2 exams in one year by making good use of Eiken online lessons regardless of COVID-19 restrictions. Please continue to enjoy studying English!



### Listening / Writing How I studied

Because I was good at taking the Listening test, I concentrated on other questions, solved previous exam questions and reviewed the wrong answers to aim for a perfect score.

I worked on questions from past exams and referred to answer examples to practice my writing. It was a practice like "copying examples of correct answers", but changing paragraphs and applying sentences to my own format was good preparation for writing a sentence of "what I want to say".

### Speaking How I studied

I practiced speaking English at Grad Chat's Eiken interview lesson and I also took the interview preparation lesson the day before the second part of the Eiken exam.

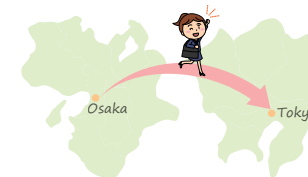
## Grad Club

〈Kansai → Kanto〉

## New Leader Message



Grad Club Kanto Leader Mayuka Yamada



From April, I was assigned from Kansai to Kanto as a leader of Grad Club Kanto with the mission of improving the learning environment of Kanto Grad Club and upgrading unique events.

One of the driving forces behind my engagement in Kanto was by leading the "New G1 Welcome Camp" held in March.

Two years have passed since the spread of COVID-19 and it still hasn't ended yet. Children graduated from the school under various event restrictions.

We paid close attention to infection control and decided to hold a two day trip with the desire for children to have precious experiences for their growth and to make fun memories with friends. With children's smiles on our returning bus ride and "Thank you" from the parents, I was glad that we could have the event and at the same time I felt a sense of accomplishment.

As a leader of Kanto Grad Club, I have to take on various responsibilities. Of course I am worried, but I think there are many things I can notice because I am from a different environment. I will review "Things Kansai Grad Club has, but Kanto Grad Club doesn't have". Besides, I am ready to take on the challenge of "creating things from scratch" in order to provide the events that are unique to the Kanto region.

● For inquiries to Kanto Grad Club ☎090-9142-4526(Mayuka Yamada) ✉info@grad-club.com

## New G1 Welcome Camp

First camp out away from parents! Everyone smiled all the time, we made lasting memories with our "K3" friends!



### Kansai [Lake Biwa]

1st. Group: March 16th(Wed)~17th(Thu)  
2nd. Group: March 18th(Fri)~19th(Sat)

On the first day, we had an original English Ninja program exclusively for Kinder Kids children. On the second day, we invited an outside instructor of traditional Kyoto crafts, and everyone made and took home an identical souvenir. We also made a group art piece to commemorate our graduation.



### Kanto [Nikko]

March 23rd(Wed)~March 24th(Thu)

Children dressed and became ninjas in the city of Edo during the "Samurai Spirits" program! They were excited to learn about Japanese culture and spirit.



### Fukuoka [Nokono Island]

March 22nd(Tue)~March 23rd(Wed)

We experienced making a ceramic bowl using a pottery wheel and also made a large campfire on the beach. Children usually do not have a chance to experience these activities! Also, we had a special program in English at Ogawa Farm, a local blueberry farmer.

