



- *Although foreign children are not obliged to go to school in Japan, they have a right to do that.
- *The compulsory education in Japan consists of 6 years in elementary school (school ages between 6 and 12) and 3 years in junior high school (school ages between 12 and 15). A school term starts in April and ends in March next year. Children who are under school age can enter school without entrance examination. Regarding high school, persons who will have reached 15 years old as of April 1 and satisfy any of the following conditions can take the entrance examination. 1) Person who graduated from junior high school in Japan, 2) Person who completed 9-year curriculum in overseas countries, 3) Person who was judged to have attainments equal to or higher than junior high-school graduates through a junior high graduate certification test and so on.
- *Follow the necessary procedure for going to public school at your municipal board of education office.
- *In public elementary/junior high school that provides compulsory education, all classes are held in Japanese, based on the curriculum standard specified by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology.
- *In Japan, each community has its own public school. The cost for the school is not so high. (The fees for entrance, tuition, and texts are all free. The guardians only have to bear expenses for school supplies, school meals, and school trips, and so on.)
- *Some schools employ teachers who teach Japanese language and livings for several hours in a week.
- *As a rule, children will be admitted to the school year based on their school age.
- * There are children's clubs for elementary school students (*Jido Kurabu*) whose parents go to work during the daytime, in which appropriate playing opportunities are given. Consult with the municipal office in your area for the details.
- *Be sure to notify the school when your child cannot attend the classes or you will go back to your country. Also, if you have worries about your child's attitude toward language and study or truancy, you should consult with his/her teacher.

**Don't be anxious about your child alone.
You should consult with someone!**

You can consult with : school, each municipal office, each municipal board of education, or each consultation office for foreigners.

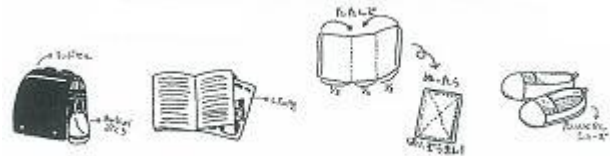
Consultations on children's rights and bullying :

Children'sRightsNo.110	077-522-0110
Consultations on children or parent-child relationship at home :	
Children and Family No. 110	077-566-4152
Consultations on child rearing, mental and physical handicaps, abuse, and protection:	
Central Child Guidance Center	077-562-1121
Hikone Child Guidance Center	0749-24-3741
Consultations in foreign languages:	
Shiga Intercultural Association for Globalization	077-523-5646

Miscellaneous matters on school

- Informal gathering for discussion – Kondankai :** Opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss child education.
- School meal bag - Kyushoku bukuro :** Bag for the storage of chopsticks, spoon, and school meal napkin
- Celluloid sheet – Shitajiki :**Plastic sheet to put between notebook pages when writing in pencil

- Home visit - Katei Homon :** After a new term starts, your child's teacher visits your home to know his/her living environment.
- School gym shoes - Taikukan shuzu :** Indoor sports shoes used in a school gym. Different from schoolroom shoes.
- Dust cloth – Zokin :** Children use it for cleaning. (It is made of a towel.)



It is very difficult for foreign people to live in Japan. In particular, the language barrier makes it difficult to learn Japanese customs and life styles. However, this is not true of children, because they can overcome the communication barrier through their natural smile, playing and kindness. School is a place for orienting themselves to the community as well as studying. Attending Japanese school does not result in loss of identity, customs, or languages. It means acquiring adjustability for living a good life through respect for each other.

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