

6-1 Creating the kindergarten environment

The masters of the kindergarten are the children. So both its buildings and its playground are created for children as a place for their daily life. Children will learn many things and grow through their daily life in this environment. The environment created by the kindergarten buildings should be planned and designed to help children's growth.

Using the kindergarten buildings



Entrance.

Teachers clean the playground, set everything in order in the classroom, air the building, and wait for the children to come.



Shoes boxes and an umbrella stand are ready.

Children coming to the kindergarten enter the buildings here.

A day at the kindergarten starts.

Children put their outside shoes in the shoes box, and change into the shoes for kindergarten.

Changing shoes prevents the inside of the buildings from getting dirty with soil and mud, and help to create a clean and safe environment.

After changing shoes, the children put their bags and jackets in their own lockers, or on a bag rack on the wall.

After that, at some kindergartens they are asked to put on an apron or a smock.

A place for their private cups and towels is available.

In the classroom, there are many attractive play things, which are kept in good order in their own place.

There are many toys, musical instruments, and things for the play house, which children can take out to play with freely.

After playing, they are expected to put everything away in the same place.



In the classroom, there is a special corner for the play house partitioned off with a tatami mat or a screen.

On the shelf, there are various things for the play house, such as kettles, bowls, plates, spoons and artificial food.

When the children put "cooked food" on the tableware, they put them on the table.

There are bookshelves for picture books in the classroom.

Books that the children love to read are put ready for them.

Children can take out their favorite books any time and read them.

The walls of the classroom are colorfully decorated with children's artwork. Cherry blossoms in spring, sunflowers in summer, colored leaves in autumn, and snow views in winter. So the decoration matches the seasons, and will teach the children about changing seasons, and about Japanese traditional charming sights that show the seasons.



At the entrance of the classroom, the name of the class is shown and decorated, and this helps the children identify with their classroom.

In the classroom, the children's photos are put together under the month in which they are born, and their names are decorated. The children's pictures and artwork is also displayed, for everyone to see.



In the classroom or in the corridor, there is a sink. The children gargle and wash their hands after coming back from outside and before lunch, and they brush their teeth here.



In the classroom there is a corner for cleaning-tools such as a broom, a dustpan, and a floor cloth. The children will do basic room cleaning themselves by picking up garbage, wiping the tables, etc.

A place is prepared for children to get emergency treatment, if they are injured during kindergarten, or they can rest in the bed if someone feels sick.

Sometimes, those who want to spend some time alone quietly, although they are not sick, can stay here.

Measurements of children's height and weight is regularly taken here.



In each classroom, a first aid kit is provided for the treatment of minor injuries.

This is a toilet for children.

The sinks and doorhandles are made small and low to match the children's size.

And the door of the toilet is made low so that teachers can check a child inside.

There is no partition between sinks and toilets so that children can easily get in and out.



This is a hall.

It is more spacious than a nursery room, and children from any classes can come in and play in freely.

They can play in a big group and move around dynamically here.

The stage usually a place for children's daily play, and is used for birthday parties, assemblies, and concerts.



Teacher's room

Here, the basic preparation and administration for nursery education - such as morning meetings, clerical work, preparation of materials, and faculty meetings - are held.