

What are the qualities that should be nurtured in children by the end of early childhood?

How 5-year-olds behave in their third semester in January

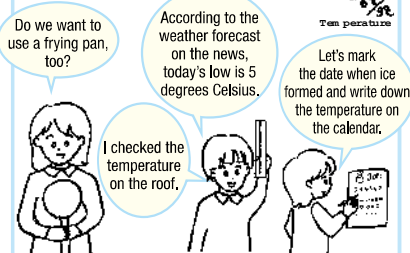
How do we make ice?



The next day...



After experimenting with ice for several days...



Children grow significantly in early childhood, physically and emotionally. They are still young but start to acquire the qualities that should be nurtured by the end of early childhood (refer to pages 8-9) in the period before they start elementary school. How do they show those qualities in their actual life at preschool?

Let's see how the 5-year-olds in January from the column on the left displayed the qualities that should be nurtured by the end of early childhood.

Qualities observed in the children in the column on the left:
Qualities that should be nurtured in children by the end of early childhood
(refer to pages 8-9)

● Connections to social life

As they wondered if there was a relationship between temperature and ice forming based on the weather forecast on TV, they started to check and record the temperature on the calendar at preschool, notice the changes in temperature, and inform the other children.

● Budding thinking ability

Because of their interest in ice, they carried out many ice-making experiments with their peers. While doing so, they learned the properties of ice and further expanded their interest to places and containers where water freezes easily, as well as conditions for forming ice, such as temperature. They also learned to think from different perspectives while exchanging views with their peers and gaining exposure to different ways of thinking.

● A relationship with nature/respect for life

The children had the opportunity to learn about the properties of ice by seeing and touching it first-hand and experiencing its coldness, wonder, and fun. This also helped cultivate curiosity and inquisitiveness as their desire to make ice generated an interest in conditions such as temperature.

● Communication in words

Things related to ice became a common topic of the children's conversation. They expressed their questions, discoveries, and thoughts to one another with words, and the whole class shared information and learned.

As described above, children develop an inquiring mind and motivation to answer questions independently through the experience of working toward a solution, experimenting, and sharing thoughts with their peers during play and in their daily life. Experiences in early childhood help children acquire and understand knowledge backed by real experience as well as form the basis for children's lifestyle and studies at elementary school and beyond.

Preparation before elementary school

(What to expect before enrollment in elementary school)

Mid-October

You will receive a School Entry Health Checkup Form and School Selection Form.

Undergo the school entry health checkup at the school, date, and time written on the School Entry Health Checkup Notification mailed to each home between late October and the end of November. Confirm these details on the notification.

Late October – November

The child will undergo a school entry health checkup.

In principle, each child is placed in a school in the school district of his/her residence. However, Minato City has introduced a school selection system that allows children to choose a school in another school district if they wish. Select a school after gaining a sufficient understanding of each school's characteristics and educational content by referring to the educational policies and other details printed in each school's introductory pamphlet, as well as information from school open days.

Early November

You are required to submit the school selection form.

Late November

Application results are announced. Schools that implement a lottery conduct their lottery (early December).

Some schools may not be able to accept children who wish to attend from outside the school district due to factors such as an increased population within the school district.

January

After your child's school has been confirmed, you will receive a school attendance notice.

Families who have decided to enroll their child in a national or private elementary school should promptly submit the admission (acceptance) letter from the school to the School Affairs Section of the Board of Education.

February

Participate in the school information session.

Finally, it is time to start elementary school. Prepare school supplies in advance.

April

Enroll in elementary school