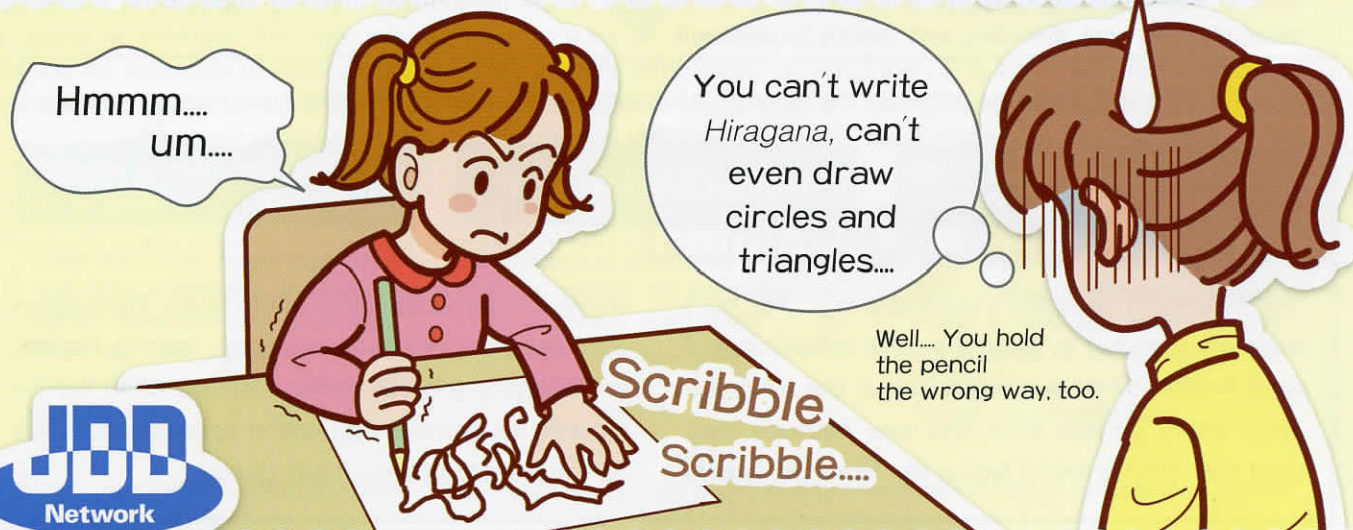


# Have you ever worried about your child's development?





## Children who have difficulty conforming to elementary school life.

.....

● Not all 6-year olds are able to follow time schedules, **yet class time is organized such that children are expected to complete designated activities within a set period of time.** Some children have particular difficulties with this aspect of schooling.

● Some students **experience difficulties in school because they have trouble getting along with other children, or because they cannot follow the teacher's instructions, even though they want to learn.** They may be good at writing Kanji or calculating numbers, but fail to change their clothes when asked to, or to tidy their space. Some students may also feel awkward playing a musical

instrument or doing gymnastics. These students can lose their confidence or feel sad that they cannot conform to the demands of the classroom. Some feel misunderstood by classmates and teachers.

● If your child feels misunderstood, or if he/she has difficulty conforming to school life, you might consider changing schools. It is important that **your child learn in a positive and encouraging environment** where the teachers and students understand each other **so that each child can benefit from an education that supports their needs.**

## Find the right school/class for your child.

.....

### 1 Regular classes

National and public or private **elementary schools run regular classes.** They establish the appropriate curriculum for each grade and **students work together in large groups.** It is possible for children with special needs to succeed in a regular class. However, teachers can only support those with special needs within the class. These students might need supplementary lessons at a special facility, **or they might need to do additional work at home to keep up with the class.**

**Private Tutoring Classes :** Private tutoring classes provide lessons that help a student keep up with the regular class.

### 2 Special Needs Classes

Special needs classes are for students who need supports to function in daily school life. These classes are available in many public schools. Each school that offers a special needs class tailors the curriculum to the particular students who attend.

**Bridging Regular and Special Needs classes :** Students who are registered in a special needs class can arrange to attend a regular education class on a monthly or a weekly basis, depending on the student's ability to learn in that class.

### 3 Special Education Schools

**Special Education schools are intended for children with visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, physical disorder, and health impairment.** At such schools parents work with teachers to create an educational plan that meets a student's special needs. With effective teaching and appropriate resources, all students can learn and reach their full potential. The local board of education is responsible for ensuring that all students who require these services can access them. There are nearly 900 Special Education schools across the country.

### What kind of school meets your child's educational needs?

**If your child can learn a lot within a large group, he/she might go to a....**

- **Regular Class / Private Tutoring Classes** in a national and public/private elementary school

However, your child might also need to go to a special facility or to work at home to follow his/her class smoothly.

**If your child needs more attention, he/she might go to a....**

- **Special Needs Class** in local public elementary school
- **Special Education Schools**

Your child can take classes that match his/her needs and abilities in a small group.

## One Point Column

"My child might need some extra help in school, but I don't want him/her to go to a special school/class. I want him/her to go to a regular class like everyone else." Many parents think this way because they want their child to lead a typical life. However, school

choice should be based on future goals. Think about your child working in a company, making friends, and enjoying a hobby during holidays when he/she reaches adulthood. What kind of education does he/she need to achieve future goals?



☺ Before your child starts his/her school life, can he/she do these things below? .....

**Point:1** Can your child decide when he/she may go to the bathroom by him/herself?

In school children are permitted to go to the bathroom during break time only. They are not allowed to go during class time.



**Point:2** Can your child change clothes by him/herself?

There are times during school hours that children need to change their clothes: for example, for Physical Education, or swimming classes. Does your child dress him/herself, or does he/she need help?



**Point:3** Can your child use a fork and chopsticks to eat meals?

Upper class students help younger students and younger students also help each other in serving lunch. Most students use a fork or chopsticks to eat their meal.



**Point:4** Can your child respond when someone calls his/her name?

Since a class might have up to 40 students, your child needs to be able to respond when called upon in both small group and full class settings.



**Point:5** Can your child tell the difference between his/her things and other students'?

School children are expected to manage a variety of belongings, such as pen sets, textbooks, toolboxes for handicrafts, and other instruments.



**Point:6** Can your child write his/her name in *Hiragana*?

Typically, by school entry children can draw circles and other shapes, like triangles. Drawing is a precursor skill to writing and the other paper-and-pencil activities that are central to school-based learning.



**Also, he/she**

- should be able to use tools, such as scissors.
- needs to be able to put his/her belongings in a given places.
- will be asked to engage in physical activities like ball play and jump rope.



If you want to get more detailed information about school, please contact these organizations as follows:

**Support Center for People with Developmental Disorder (SCPDD)**

There is a SCPDD in each municipality, and they summarize information about developmental disorders. They will give you some advice about choosing the best school for your child.

**The Board of Education**

The Board of Education is divided into two regions: city and prefecture. The city board of education will do school counseling for you.

**Child-Development Support Organization (CDSO)**

They will train or treat your child. Each organization is called a different name in each city. Mostly, people are referred to the CDSO by the Child-raising Support Center or the Health and Welfare Center.

\*Each organization is called a different name in each city so if you want to contact them, please visit or call your local city hall.

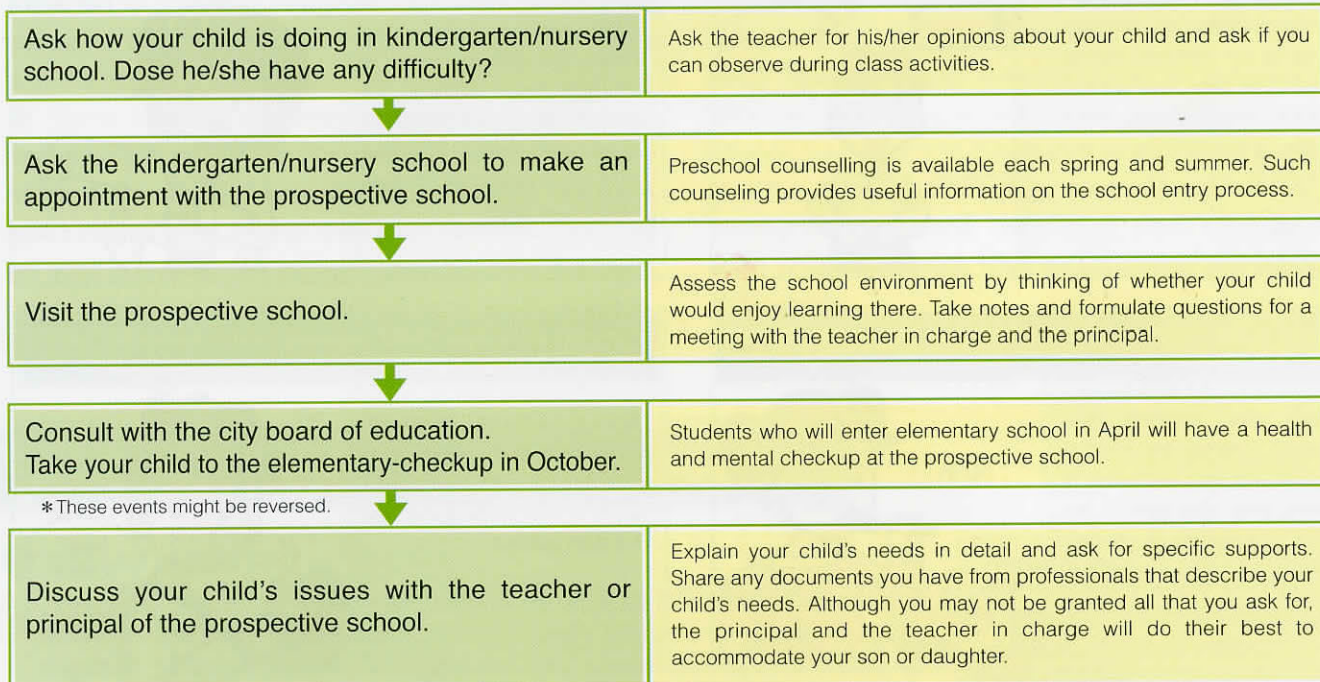




## School entry for students with special needs

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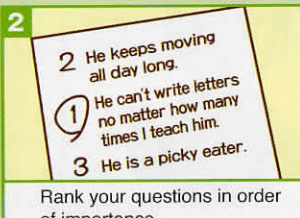
Each October all students entering school must first contact the prospective school for an "elementary-checkup". However, if you think your child has special needs, you should consult an advisor as soon as possible. You can find an advisor at a prospective school, a kindergarten/nursery school, or at the city board of education. (The process might be different in each city.)



\* The city board of education might contact the school to make an appointment.

No matter which school you choose, it is important for you and your family to discuss your child's best interests with an advisor. Preschool counselling will continue until the city board of education chooses the best school for your child. Ask the advisor to advocate for your child if you encounter problems in making a smooth entry into school.

How can you prepare yourself to avoid misunderstandings?



## Enjoy your caretaking role!!

Finally, it's time to start school!

There will be new challenges to face if your child has special needs. For example, some students have difficulty understanding school rules. They may not understand that the school bell signals transitions from one class to the next, that they should not stand-up

and walk around during class time, or that each child has his own job in the classroom. Parents and teachers should collaborate on developing strategies for teaching children with special needs what they need to know to function in the class.

**JDD net** (Japan Developmental Disorder Network) <http://jddnet.jp/>

E-MAIL: [office@jddnet.jp](mailto:office@jddnet.jp)

\* Japan Developmental Disorder Network consists of five groups, "Autism Society Japan" "Japan LD" "NPO Asperger Society Japan", "NPO Edison club" "NPO-EDGE", that came together on Dec. 3rd 2005. Recently, 60 organizations, including local or national NPOs, academic societies, and job-training organizations, have joined to help families and their children. Our aim is to work together nationwide.

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