

Angel Kindergarten Language Policy

Our Mission

*We nurture students that take on challenges,
care for and collaborate with others*

Our Vision

*We strive to create a community which
promotes lifelong learning and
knowledgeable international minded people.
Our children will grow into adults who are
kindhearted and takes on challenges.*

The language policy is the way that language is implemented within the school. It is how communication is advanced within the school and requires all facilitators to be instructors of language. For implementation, all the facilitators helped develop the policy. By aligning to it, teaching will not differ thus giving the students the same opportunity for growth. The policy will also give the students the opportunity to come together towards a common goal to further develop language, as well as giving the opportunity for understanding.

Angel Kindergarten believes that the purpose of language is to communicate with others; to express feelings, ideas and opinions. Because we are different from each other, we also recognize through language that our ideas and opinions aren't always the same. It is important to respect every person's different values, and by communicating these thoughts, we can create relationships and understanding. We then recognize that there is both commonality and diversity in language, and that they are essential parts of our lives.

Language comes in many forms: to speak, to listen, to read, to write, to sing, to draw, to play instruments, and body language. These, and others, are parts of how we communicate. By developing meaning across the various forms, the students have the opportunity to communicate in different ways. It is important for students to have the opportunity to use a form of language which they can feel comfortable using when communicating their thoughts. It is equally necessary to develop skills that help us interpret the language as it is a requirement for us to create a mutual understanding.

Angel Kindergarten believes in the importance of supporting a child's mother tongue. This will be achieved through different means such as books, songs and genuine interest by the community. It is essential to have an inclusive programme therefore we support non-Japanese speakers by creating a natural learning environment, in which we encourage the use of both Japanese and the mother tongue. The learning community can interact through the different types of languages which are previously stated. We can also adapt our spoken language to

support comprehension by speaking slowly, paraphrasing, and using context for understanding within the unit of inquiry.

If a child does not understand Japanese, a natural approach will be taken for both languages while supporting the mother tongue. As Angel Kindergarten is a Japanese kindergarten, the main language is Japanese. Therefore, the child will be mainly exposed to Japanese, but also English. The community will make use, in addition to previously stated language forms, pictures, actions, labels, repetition and emphasis. We believe it is important to nurture the child's motivation towards language.

It is our belief that international mindedness is essential for our students. We support them to become people who strive to make our world a better place. Therefore the language, and the relationships and understanding that comes with it, are important stepping stones towards our mission and vision.

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."
-Frank Smith, To Think: In language, learning and education

Angel Kindergarten believes that it is important to join the global community, therefore English is a big part of our community. We recognize that thinking in different languages helps us enhance our cognitive functions and linguistic skills. Therefore we use the natural approach - to teach English in English. Although Japanese is the main language used throughout the school, we also support all students in their transdisciplinary learning in English to give them the opportunity to become international communicators. English will be used regularly, not only in the classroom but outside of the classroom as well to make authentic conversations to support the students in their language acquisition.

We also offer an optional extracurricular English program to further support the English language acquisition, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). ESOL is used to support English language acquisition beyond what can be done within regular kindergarten hours. This program continues for elementary students once they have graduated kindergarten. This provides more opportunities for students to advance language skills in English.

It is our belief that the involvement of all stakeholders are integral to the students learning. Stakeholders are notified through various means of communication of what the students are learning and their progression. The stakeholders will then understand what language to use and to look for when communicating with the students. This will help the community as a whole because both students and guardians will have the opportunity to further develop.

This concludes Angel Kindertartens language policy.