

Application for Participation

Associated Schools Project (ASP) for Promoting International Education

“Our Lovely Town Tsuda”

～Through cherishing good relationships with nature, people and culture～

Outline of the way the Project(s) will be implemented in the institution

Description of the Project

We have been practicing in educational activities closely related to this area, such as nature, facilities and industries and so on. We are aiming to promote education for sustainable development under the theme of “Our Lovely Town Tsuda” We plan to revise our curriculum to link to ESD basic principles to have kids learn the importance of keeping the environment in good conditions by observing nature, growing crops, saving energy, recycling and thinking of others and the Earth. Our aim is to raise kids to be rich in humanity and have an international mind.

We, the teachers, make teams and learn seriously what to do and how to make our curriculum (ESD calendar) a better one. We review the educational activities and the contents of the subjects or lessons. Specifically, we put emphasis on environment-centered activities linked with programs of facilities and industries especially through the lessons of life environmental studies and hours of comprehensive studies.

We do believe our kids will realize the good aspects and qualities of the Tsuda region into the future. We also hope they feel pride and affection for our home area, Tsuda.

Objectives of the Project

Our main goal is to have kids shift their focus to help saving the environment and historical sites. Our school is 140 years old this year and located not so far from central Toyohashi. We have a rich natural environment and the Toyo River runs closely by. We still have industries which have developed by using its power. We have been cherishing the historical town along the Tokaido Road and the Urigou Remains(officially-designated historical site). They are very familiar spots for the students. We are hoping that they become consciously aware of the importance of keeping the environment and historical sites preserved. For this reason, we have set the following four activities.

(1) Area-friendly Activities

- Ecology-based action...Collecting and recycling of milk cartons, saving electricity and water
- Growing plants like balsam apple, balloon vine and using them as natural curtains for the school buildings

- 5 3 0 movement(getting rid of trash campaign)...twice a year, led by the committee of pupils

We think of the environment of our school area, sometimes on a larger scale, Earth.

We are sensitive to what we should do and act accordingly. We are hoping the sensitiveness and awareness for the environment will spread to the people around us.

(2) Nature-friendly activities

- Observation of the four seasons, The Toyo-river and The Egawa-river
- Rice planting, rice cultivation and the harvesting of rice
- Sweet potato planting, weeding the field and the harvesting of potatoes
- Kids learn the importance of taking care of the crops and the value of them. They can get more affection for nature and a sense of gratitude

(3) Activities linked to the history and culture of the school region

- Out of School Exploring events, learning the historical and cultural things like the historical town along the Tokaido Road and the Urigou Remains(officially-designated historical site), temples and shrines, and the development of Kiyosu new rice fields.
- The study experience of the characteristic Industry of our school district...miso-making company, big market of fish, Yamasa chikuwa-making company
- Participation in the Festival of the school zone
- The main aim is to know most of the culture and traditions to let them feel the hardships, learn the wisdom and admire the culture accumulated by our forefathers. We hope they will grow as useful members to the community and respect one another.

(4) Activities linked to the School events and community

- Sports Festival (many teams join this from the school area), Pupil's Art exhibition, Class Observation Day(School Opening Day for parents etc) School Play Day, Greeting Campaign Day or Week and Classes for parent-and-child Day

The children, parents, teachers and community residents work together to raise feeling of "one" for the members of our community and affection for our region and the Earth. We foster a good relationship between us and respect the wonderful and beautiful nature for giving us so many things.

Execution

Our school will advance studies with environmental conservation as the starting point for ESD. We think these studies will enable the children to foster the fundamental attitude and ability to explore the community and the environment, to feel its connections and values as part of a member of it.

Furthermore, we hope it leads to the developing of human resources which will build a sustainable society in the future.

Tsuda School District lies between the Toyo-River and the Toyo-River Floodway. It is about 5 kilometers to the River mouth of the Mikawa Bay. Toyo-River had been an important means of transportation and our town could develop thanks to it. The Miso company which has been here, still has a traditional way of miso-making. The big fish market of Toyohashi city is also in our school area and has lots of shops selling seaweed and is connected with the sea. We also have rice fields and farming families dealing macrophyll, flowers for edible use. Some are trying to develop new crops. Thus we are living with the blessing of the sea, the river and fields. We are hoping the children will know more about this area and love the land. We can develop their mind to help one another to live in harmony.

In order to achieve the goals in each grade, we work on activities linking to community studies and events through Integrated Study, Life Environment Studies, etc. We will make an “ESD Calendar” to clarify the points.

- Involvement of each grade with the school area

1st graders: Four Seasons of our town

2nd graders : the living things around us, Let's go out and experience our town

3rd graders : Our town, everyone's town

4th graders : Let's chart out to the Toyo-River ! Water examination of The Egawa River and the Toyo River Making a “Green Curtain” to create shades for the school building

5th graders: Let's make delicious rice

6th graders : Let's protect our school region

- Activities of the children's group for the greenery and energy-saving

All grades: “Cleaning activities”

Recycling of milk cartons and so on.

Saving energy, water electricity movement (including checking the solar panel)

Promoting better flower beds.

“ESD Calendar” (example of the 4th graders, 2012)

Subject area	April May June July August September October November December January February March
Social Studies	How to lead a comfortable life Examine water “Where is this from?”
Science	Cultivation of balsam apple Let's find out plant life “green curtain” ← examine the living things →
Integrated	Explore the River → Plant the rice harvest Let's have a sense of gratitude
School Events	Parent-kids class School Play Rice-cake making festival “Waku-waku experience” Activity

(1) Environment-centered activities for this area and the World

The children think of how and what to do for a nicer environment and actually take actions.
The teachers make them more aware of the importance of maintaining the conditions.



Recycling Milk cartons
To have kids feel more
Involved in the environment



Natural curtains for the school buildings...growing balsam apple
To feel cooler thanks to the shade of the plants



530 activities

The environmental committee takes initiative
to clean the area twice a year
Students come to understand the importance of
keeping it clean.

(2) Activities related to nature

○Growing sweet potatoes(1st to 3rd graders), Rice planting and the harvest(4th to 6th graders)

With the help of the farmers of this area, kids have a chance to plant and raise crops. They feel real nature and the difficulties of growing and taking care of the plants. The farmers visit and give them lessons on “rice making”. They invite the elders and helpers who watch them come and go to school safely. We have a happy time eating and playing games together. The point is to be thankful for the food and cherish nature.



Planting sweet potatoes -Eating assembly
Planting paddy-Harvest-Mochi-tsuki assembly



(3) Activities related to the history and culture of this school area

The children touch the wisdom and devices of the people. They also go to observe historical places and facilities. They research to understand more on their interests. The point is to motivate themselves more on what to do for the future-for the historical places and industries of our land.



Visiting Miso Factory (2th graders)

Visiting Fish Market (3rd graders)

(4) Activities related with school events and the people in the school zone

We plan to have an opportunities to have children make a presentation of their study on the environmental issues to the parents and the people in this area. The aim is to have kids have more respect for this area and deepen their relationships with the people around them.

School Opening Day(watched by an adviser)



Sports Day co-held with community association



Type of materials to be used

Handbook of Elementary School Career Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, May 2011(Web version)

Shining Toyohashi, published April 1, 2011, edited by the Toyohashi Municipal Elementary School Social Studies Department Side Reader Training Committee, published by Toyohashi city Board of Education, printed by Aprise Co., Ltd.

A handbook for promoting career education called Career Education for the Nine Years of Elementary and Intermediate School, Aichi Prefecture Board of Education, Compulsory Education Section(Web version)

Career Education Notebook: a Navigation Notebook for Finding your Dream and Fulfilling your Dream, by the Aichi Prefecture Board of education(Web version)

Is there any type of evaluation to examine the effects of the project on students' comprehension and attitudes?

Evaluation of a child's understanding and attitude is done as follows:

- The pupil's understanding is evaluated as a result of the activities, his/her report or opinions.
- As a summary of learning, training and activities, open school time, exhibitions, presentations are checked in terms of his/her motivation and attitude.

Along with the above assessment, the following are conducted to enhance ESD activities.

- A questionnaire of each activity, a survey(in July and December) about improving education of Tsuda Elementary School are given out. The results are presented and discussed among parents and teachers and the "School Management Advisers".
- In order to fit the curriculum to the children and the characteristics of the community, the ESD calendar is reviewed yearly to improve the situation of kid's learning and training.

On behalf of my institution, I apply for participation in the UNESCO Associated Schools Project and give the assurance that this institution will make an active contribution to the Project, as outlined above, for a minimum period of two years. At the end of every year, I shall submit a report of the Project to the ASP National Co-ordinator of my country.

October 4th, 2013

Date

Principal's name

Position, Principal

Institution's name

Tsuda Elementary School, Toyohashi, Aichi, Japan