

Angel Kindergarten Language Policy

Our Mission

*We nurture students to 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 take on challenges.*

Rationale

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. All the facilitators helped develop the policy for implementation. 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.

Our definition of language

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: speaking, listening, reading, writing, singing, drawing, playing 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. Considering the students' wellbeing, 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.

Japanese language

The Japanese language is the main language used at Angel Kindergarten. The promotion of the Japanese language is an important part of our curriculum. At Angel Kindergarten, we are developing the Japanese language by, (but not limited to) the following methods:

- Collaboration, circle time, and conversations
- Events
- Arts
- Reading and writing
- Japanese as second language (JSL) classes
- ICT

Collaboration

As students have opportunities to collaborate in big or small groups, they learn how to use their spoken language as open-minded communicators as they listen and speak to each other. During these opportunities, they might pose and answer questions, present and exchange ideas, thoughts, preferences, emotions, and feelings as reflective thinkers and inquirers. During circle time, students become knowledgeable and are encouraged to speak and present to their peers. Students also develop language through daily conversations between peers, teachers, and the local community.

Events

Through events, students have the opportunity to learn language and expressions which might not reveal themselves during other types of learning experiences. For example, we learn about Japanese cultural events, or invite local experts such as police and fire departments to extend students' knowledge in social studies and services. Through these experiences, students learn values and language we believe are important for our community to become open-minded and principled.

Art

We believe that students develop the Japanese language through the arts as well. We become thinkers and reflective when we use art to reflect on different experiences such as collaboration, events, and stories. It allows students to express their understanding of the language in multiple ways, including a combination of art and written Japanese.

Music

We also think that songs are an important aspect of our lives. At Angel Kindergarten, we combine traditional songs and new songs. Our aim is for students to learn new expressions and words, and understand the meaning of the songs and why we sing them. The lyrics give context to the songs, which supports students in their language development to become thinking communicators.

Books

At Angel Kindergarten, we put emphasis on books. Students can inquire about their units by using books in the classroom or the library for research. They can also read books for leisure. Books are read by students, or aloud together with the teachers. We believe it is important to read books as we can extend both our reading and writing skills (characters, numbers, and

symbols), as well as speaking and listening skills. Students also become inquirers and knowledgeable by reading books.

ICT

We use ICT to further inform our inquiry, and at the same time our language as well. Students learn about iconography, and language used in relation to ICT.

Mother tongue

Angel Kindergarten believes in the importance of acknowledging 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 natural comprehensible input.

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. Non-Japanese speakers are also supported through extra Japanese as Second Language (JSL) classes. 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 us. We support our students to become people who strive to make our world a better place. Therefore language, and the relationships and understanding that comes with it, are important stepping stones towards our mission and vision.

English language at Angel Kindergarten

Angel Kindergarten believes that it is important to join the global community as open-minded communicators, therefore English is a part of our community. We recognize that thinking in different languages helps us enhance our cognitive functions and linguistic skills. We teach English in English while recognizing the use of the Japanese language for clarification when needed. Although Japanese is the main language used throughout the school, we also support all students in their transdisciplinary learning in English. 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. Our goal is to have reasonable expectations of our students, while challenging them to further develop their communication skills.

We 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.

Involving all stakeholders

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 Kindergarten's language policy.