

An interview with Takako Ebita – Ebisu School



Takako Ebita's son, Ryo, attended the PIP program from the age of two years old. He currently attends an international school in Tokyo, one which he was accepted into as an honor student. He continues to come to our school as part of the Jupiter program. His sister, Shino, has attended PIP since she was 2 years old and is now a K3 student. Since April, 2020, she has been attending the school for 8 hours a day as part of the PAP program.

1. Why did you choose our school?

Our son first began attending the school when he was 2 years old. I found the principle's ideology, as well as the teachers' skill and leadership ability, to be outstanding and chose the school without a second thought. Each new teacher is kind and has a strong sense of responsibility. They treat each student as an individual. Our son found the thought of no longer seeing his teacher, Stephen, after graduating upsetting, so he has continued coming to the Jupiter program while attending his current international school. Stephen is like a member of our family and I feel a true bond and trust has been formed. I feel like the Jupiter program is strengthening our son's writing most of all.

2. Tell us about your child at the start of the program.

Our daughter fitted into the program right away, clearly enjoying herself. She gleefully tells us about what she learns each day and the different things her teacher has discussed.

3. Tell us about your child now.

Our daughter enjoys PAP and loves attending. Regarding her English ability, although we give her very little assistance at home, she was able to pass Eiken Gr. 4 in K2 and Eiken Gr. 3 in the early part of K3. This fall, still as a K3 student, she took the Eiken Gr. Pre-2 exam.

Since our daughter attends an 8-hour program, her exposure to English is far greater than our son's

was. She speaks English more frequently. While she speaks to us in Japanese, it is clear to us as her parents that speaking English comes more naturally.

Our son passed Eiken Gr. Pre-2 as a K3 student and passed Eiken Gr. 2 in his first year of elementary school. Currently, he is working towards passing Eiken Gr. Pre-1. Each day, he arrives home around 3:30pm and completes his homework independently. This is due to the positive habits he developed during his time in PIP, where he would complete worksheets given out three days a week in the same manner.

4. What activities does your child most enjoy doing at our school?

Our daughter loves Art and also enjoys Phonics and Penmanship. Since she was taught how to write from a young age, she is able to read and write naturally with little effort. She enjoys reading both Japanese and English books at home.

5. What are your plans for your child in the future?

Just like her older brother, she was accepted into an international school. While we practiced some math leading up to the written exam, she needed no other support from us at home. I feel like that if a student studies at PAP, then an entrance exam for an international school will not be challenging for the student. We also requested her teacher to write a letter of recommendation, and she had no challenges with the interview. The chief director of the school was quite surprised by the level of the students they have seen graduate from the PAP program.

If she wishes to, around high school age, we hope to send her to study abroad. Now is the perfect opportunity for our daughter to prepare should she choose to.

6. Do you have any advice for parents thinking of enrolling their child in the PAP program?

As the parent to a son and daughter who attended the program, I can say with confidence that it is a program that builds on each student's conversation ability, reading and writing, and their ability to give presentations. These are not pushed onto a student in a short time, but rather the student is gradually guided over time to be able to accomplish each one. Even as a parent, this is completed without noticing, until one day you come to realize the level your child has reached.

The adults the children interact with on a daily basis in early childhood are extremely important. I was a little surprised when I heard that the school would be changing to one with multiple teachers in charge of a single class. However, nothing that happens at the school is ever kept from the parents, and it allows us to have trust in the school. I believe it will have a positive impact on the students to be taught by responsible adults and teachers who display strong leadership. The average English teacher isn't able to stimulate the students in the same way. That is one of the best aspects of the teachers at PAP.