

# **English Version**

## **School Attendance Handbook**

~For the smiles of our tomorrow~



**July, 2023**

**Mihara City Board of Education**

## The 1 year schedule regarding school attendance (upon beginning elementary school)

◆ Please check all the details within the following pages.

Month	Schedule	Parents' responsibilities	The school's responsibilities	Page with more info
April	Consultation with the Kindergarten School Tour (Can be done anytime)	You can discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's school attendance at the Kindergarten school.  Can consult with the school when you would like to do a school tour.	If needed, the school will consult with professionals who can assist your child.  The kindergarten director will contact the principal of the elementary school to arrange a schedule for the visit.	P4
May	Applications for Educational Consultations begin	If you wish to enroll your child in a special-needs school or special-needs class next school year, or if you have any questions about your child, please apply for an educational consultation.	The school will submit an application for educational consultation to the Board of Education.	P5
June			Will inform the parents upon receiving a notice from the Board of Education.	P5
July	Educational Consultations starts	Consult with us in regard to the time and place by contacting us.	If necessary, the consultation can be done in the presence of a guardian.	P5
August		※1 If you wish to enroll your child in a special support school, please apply for an educational consultation at a special support school through the kindergarten school by the beginning of October.  ※2 If you wish to enroll your child in a special support class, please contact the preschool during the month of December to request an educational consultation.  We will consult with you about the time and place once you contact us.	The school will submit an application for educational consultation to the Board of Education.	P5

September	The 1st School Attendance Guidance Committee	The decision will be made after consultation with a specialist as to whether or not the content of the child's request for enrollment in school is suitable for the		P6
October				
November	The 2nd School Attendance Guidance Committee	To help decide whether the parents request for the school is good or not, they will consult with specialists.		P6
December	Educational consultation applications deadline			
January	Decision-making on special needs class enrolment. End of Educational consultations The 3rd School Attendance Guidance Committee (reserve)	Once enrolment into the special needs class has been decided, submit a consent form to the school.	The consent form regarding the enrolment into the special needs class that was sent by the School Attendance Committee will be handed to you by us.	P5 P6
February	Special needs Class Enrolment notice	Consult about the steps leading into enrolment into the special needs class.  When you would like to see the school, consult with them first.		P7 P8 P9 P10
March	Special Needs Class Enrolment notice	If needed, you may consult the preschool/elementary school about how your children are doing. When you would like to see the school before beginning attendance, consult with them first.	We will inform the elementary school of your child's progress. Should the guardian express that they wish to visit the school, the kindergarten school principal will contact the principal of the school the child will be attending to decide on a date.	P11 P12 P14

◆Hear from previous guardians

P16~P19

◆Q&A session in regards to school attendance

P20~P22

◆What should I do to be able to use the after-school day services?

P23~P24

## ★ If I am concerned about my child's development, what should I do first?

◆ If you have any concerns about your child, such as whether he or she will get along with his or her peers or whether he or she will be able to study calmly, you can consult with the school or class that is best suited for your child.

◆ Firstly, please consult with the preschool. Do not feel anxious by yourself, but consult with the preschool as soon as possible. If necessary, you can also speak with a specialist.

Let's lessen your worries and find the right school together.

## ◆ Who should I turn to for advice?

◆ If you are concerned about your child's development, consult with a teacher in the school your child is attending before anything else.

◆ For more detailed advice, consult your family doctor, a public health nurse, clinical psychologist, or speech therapist at the Children's Safety Division of Mihara City, a staff member of a rehabilitation institution, or a staff member of the Eastern Child and Family Center.

◆ If you want to know more about enrolling your child in a special-needs class at elementary school, information regarding specialneeds schools, or how to enter a special needs class, consult with the person in charge of special needs education at the Mihara City Board of Education.

◆ If you would like more information about the elementary school you are planning to enrol to, please consult with the special education coordinator or principal of each school.

In order for your child to find the right school, let's discuss this thoroughly.



## ★What are educational consultations and school visits for?



◆Parents may have many concerns, such as whether their children will be able to adjust to life at elementary school or whether they will be able to sit and listen to a story for 45 minutes.

It is important to consult with the preschool about any concerns you may have.

◆If you wish to visit a special needs school and observe a special needs class or a regular class, you may actually visit the elementary school to do so.

If you wish to visit the school, please tell the preschool, "I would like to visit the school". The headmaster will arrange a visit in cooperation with the principal. The principal will contact the school principal to arrange a date and time for the visit.

It is important for children to develop their potential by actually seeing the atmosphere and learning conditions of an elementary school and to imagine their own child's growth after six months' time.

Kindergartens and elementary schools have special support education coordinators who are available for consultation. Please feel free to consult with them as well.



◆It is also possible to visit events such as study presentations and to observe classes during the "Let's Go to School" week in November.

◆Through educational consultation and school tours, we can inform preschools and elementary schools of the condition of children and parents' thoughts, and together we can think about the growth of children, which will lead to better school attendance.

**It is very important to visit the school you wish to enrol your child into and get a feel for the school and its classrooms.  
Please actively do school visits!**

## ★What are Educational Consultations?

◆"Educational consultation" is a general term for an official discussion regarding school enrolment and your child's development.

If you wish to enrol your child in a special needs school or a special needs class for next year, or if you need more specialized consultation on developmental issues, you can apply for an educational consultation at the preschool.



◆Counseling sessions in regard to school enrolment is available at any time from late July to mid-January.

(Applications are due by the end of December. So please apply as early as possible, as this is related to your child's educational path.)

## ◆Educational Consultation Procedures

① Please consult with your preschool regarding your request for educational consultation. The preschool will then prepare the necessary documents and submit them to the Board of Education.

② Once the location and date have been decided, we will inform you of the details through the preschool and hold an educational consultation.

Please come with your child on the day of the consultation, if possible.

③ After the educational consultation, enrolling the child in a special needs school or special needs class will be held in consideration, in cooperation with other organizations as deemed necessary.

If the parent/guardian wishes to enrol their child in a special needs school or special needs class, the school attendance guidance committee will deliberate on the matter after the child has received educational consultation.

④ If you wish your child to be enrolled in a special needs class, you will then need to fill out a consent form and submit it to the preschool in December or January. The letter of consent is a statement of the parent/guardian's intention regarding the child's enrolment in a special needs class.

## ◆Things to Consider about Educational Consultations

◆If the student has had any developmental testing, please provide the documentation to the Board of Education at the time of the educational consultation.

Developmental tests and diagnostic results are one of the objective data needed to understand your child's condition.

## ◆What are developmental tests?

Developmental testing and its results contain information which leads to finding specific ways to help the child bring out his or her strengths and abilities. This is a valuable procedure that will enable you to think about providing support with a concrete image and to develop their strengths, rather than just verbally telling the child what you have discussed in the consultations.

With the consent of the parents/guardians, the results of the developmental examination will be provided to the school where the child is enrolled.

We will be sure to manage the information provided responsibly.

~ A quick memo ~

As the educational consultation may take more than 30 minutes, please bring something for your child to enjoy during the session (a favorite book, etc.).

## ★What are School Guidance Committees?

◆A school guidance committee is a group that holds meetings to consider school placements from a comprehensive perspective by taking into account the conditions of the child's disability, their opinions as well as the guardians', opinions from specialists in teaching, medicine, psychology, etc., as well as the conditions of the school and community.

◆In Mihara City, meetings are held (reserved) about three times a year in September, November, and January. The members are doctors, specialists in developmental counseling, and many others.

The committee discusses each case one by one on matters related to school enrolment that have been brought up at the educational consultation sessions.

◆The Board of Education deliberates based on the parents' thoughts, the content of the educational consultation, and the child's performance at preschool and school. The Board of Education then makes a decision on the child's enrollment for the next school year based on the opinions that comes as a result.

◆After the School Guidance Committee meeting, the Board of Education's assessment is presented to the parents.

◆After the parent/guardian fills out the consent form, the student's school placement for the next school year will then be decided.

◆Once the school placement has been decided, the parents will be notified through the preschool of the child's enrolment in the special needs class from February onward, as well as the enrolment notice from the special needs school.





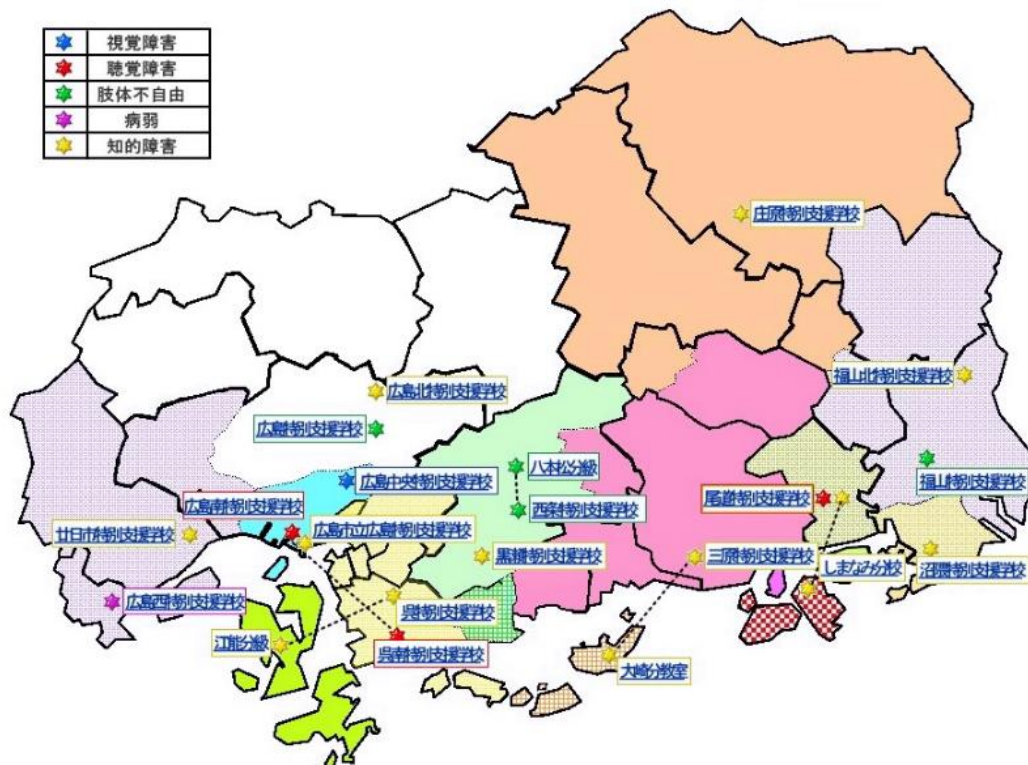
## ★What is a special needs school?

◆A special needs school is a school that provides a highly specialized education that meets the special needs for children with severe disabilities.

For example, children with intellectual disabilities who needs assistance with going to the toilet, eating, and changing clothes, are provided support with academic guidance. By allocating 2 hours per day to give them instructions on tasks used in daily life, we aim for students to be able to take care of themselves. The kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, and high school levels of special needs schools provide education at the age level corresponding to kindergarten through senior high school.

Disability categories include visual impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual disability, physical disability, and infirmity.

### ◆List of Special needs schools in the prefecture



Which special needs schools are available for students living in Mihara City?

◆As children in Mihara City are not allowed to just enter any special needs school in the prefecture, they are required to go to a special needs school depending on their place of residence.



## ★Special support school for students residing in Mihara City

ちてきしょうがい

### 知的障害/Intellectual disability

みはらとくべつしえんがっこう

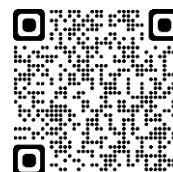
こいずみちよう

三原特別支援学校 三原市小泉町10199-2

Mihara Special Needs School Mihara City, Koizumicho 10199-2

0848-66-3030

<http://www.mihara-sh.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



したいふじゆう

### 肢体不自由/Physical handicap

ふくやまとくべつしえんがっこう ふくやましつのごうちようつのごう

福山特別支援学校 福山市津之郷町津之郷280-3

Fukuyama Special Needs School Fukuyama City,

Tsunogou-cho, Tsunogou 280-3

084-951-1513

<http://www.fukuyama-sh.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



ちようかくしょうがい

### 聴覚障害/Hearing disability

おのみちとくべつしえんがっこう ひろしまけんおのみちくりはらちよう

尾道特別支援学校 広島県尾道市栗原町1524

Onomichi Special Needs School Onomichi City, Kuriharacho 1523

Target students: Elementary and junior high school

(except for residents of Daiwa-cho)

0848-22-5248

<http://www.onomichi-sd.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



ひろしまみなみとくべつしえんがっこう ひろしましなかくよしじまとうふたちようめ

広島南特別支援学校 広島市中区吉島東二丁目10-33

Hiroshima South Special Needs School Hiroshima City, Nakakuyoshijimato 2-10-33

Target students: Elementary, middle school (residents of Daiwa-cho), high school

082-244-0421

<http://www.hiroshima-sd.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



しかくしょうがい

### 視覚障害/Visual impairment

ひろしまちゅうおうとくべつしえんがっこう ひろしましひがしくとさかせんそくふたちようめ

広島中央特別支援学校 広島市東区戸坂千足二丁目1-4

Hiroshima Central Special Needs School Hiroshima City,

Higashi-Kutosakasensoku 2-1-4

082-229-4134

<http://www.hiroshima-sb.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



びようじゃく

### 病弱/Sickliness

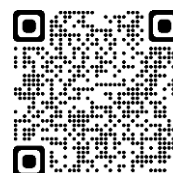
ひろしまにしとくべつしえんがっこう おおたけしくばんちようめ

広島西特別支援学校 大竹市玖波四丁目6-10

Hiroshima West Special Needs School Otake City, Kuba 4-6-10

0827-57-1000

<http://www.nishitokushien.hiroshima-c.ed.jp/>



★ If educational consultation with the special needs school is necessary, the principal will contact the principal of the school to whom the above contact should be made, and the homeroom teacher will consult with the special support coordinator. The homeroom teacher will consult with the special needs coordinator.

## ◆Specific efforts of special needs schools

◆The number of students per class is limited to 6 for elementary and middle school classes and 8 for high school classes. In addition, classes for students with multiple disabilities are limited to just three students. This allows us to provide careful and individualized instructions according to the disabilities of the students. In addition to providing education equivalent to that of elementary and junior high schools, the school is able to organize flexible curricula in order to improve and overcome difficulties in learning and in their daily lives due to disabilities.

◆In order to promote vocational independence after graduation, the school provides various vocational education and career guidance according to their state of disability, etc., as well as provides maximum support for employment and further education.

Elevators and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available. School buses are also in operation, and efforts are being made to accommodate children with disabilities.

## ◆What kind of support is provided in special needs schools?

◆We help each child acquire the skills he or she needs through play and learning that is appropriate to the actual condition of their disability.

Hiroshima Prefectural Mihara Special Needs School (Special Needs School for the Intellectually Disabled)



## ◆What if I want to enrol in a special needs school?

1 After receiving educational consultation in Mihara City, the student expresses his/her intention to go on to a special-needs school.

2 Receive an educational consultation at a special needs school and express the intention to go on to a special needs school.

◆It is desirable to apply for the above educational consultation through the preschool by the end of August, but at the latest by early October.

However, if you apply by early October at the latest, you will be able to proceed with your schooling in a well-planned manner.

◆What if I think enrolment in a special needs school is appropriate?

◆One of the criteria for determining whether or not enrolment in a special needs school is appropriate is the enrolment criteria stipulated in Article 22-3 of the School Education Law Enforcement Order.

The Criteria for school attendance as prescribed in Article 22-3 of the  
Enforcement Regulations for the School Education Law

Visual Impairment	Those with the binocular visual acuity of approximately less than 0.3 or those with severe visual dysfunction other than visual acuity that make it impossible or extremely difficult to recognize normal letters, figures, etc. visually, even with the use of a magnifying glass, etc.
Hearing Impairment	Those whose hearing level in both ears is approximately 60 decibels or higher and for whom it is impossible or extremely difficult to understand normal speech even with the use of hearing aids, etc.
Intellectual Disability	(i) Those that show signs of cognitive impairment to the extent that they have difficulty communicating with others and require frequent assistance in leading their daily lives. (ii) Those whose intellectual developmental delay does not reach the level listed in the preceding item and who have extreme difficulty in adjusting to social life.
Physically Handicap	(i) Those whose limb disability is such that even with the use of prosthetic devices, it is impossible or difficult for them to perform basic daily activities such as walking and writing. (ii) Those whose limb disability does not reach the level listed in the preceding item and who require constant medical observation and guidance.
Sickly	(i) Those whose chronic respiratory disease, renal disease, neurological disease, malignant neoplasm or other disease conditions that continue to require medical care or causes certain restrictions on their lifestyle. (ii) Those whose physical weakness continues to the extent that they require a heavily-restricted lifestyle.

◆Since special needs schools are for children with severe disabilities, not everyone can be admitted. If the applicant does not meet the criteria, he/she may not be admitted to the school.

In order to determine whether or not the applicant meets the criteria, evidence or other materials are required.

For example, please be sure to take measures such as conducting a developmental test to determine the status of the child's disability, visiting the Eastern Regional Child and Family Center to apply for a Ryoiku Techo (Rehabilitation Certificate), or obtaining a physical disability certificate.

In order for admission, we will make a comprehensive decision based on an interview and observation of the applicant's daily life situation, the state of his/her disability, and other factors.

## ★What is a special needs class?

◆Special needs classes are small classes established in elementary and junior high schools for children with disabilities, with a maximum of eight students per class, and provide an education that is tailored to each child.

◆Disability categories include visual impairment, hearing impairment/deafness, intellectual disability, physical disability, infirmity, and autism/emotional disorders.

◆Since the school is located within their local area, students can deepen their relationship with their friends in the community through exchange programs.

In addition, children who are able to take care of themselves will gradually advance their studies. They will be able to receive guidance from teachers who are good at teaching schoolwork, and will be able to advance their understanding of words and numbers.

◆In special needs classes, the educational curriculum can be organized according to the characteristics of the child, such as education following the curriculum guidelines of elementary and junior high schools or education based on the curriculum guidelines of special needs schools.

## ◆What is the curriculum for special needs classes?

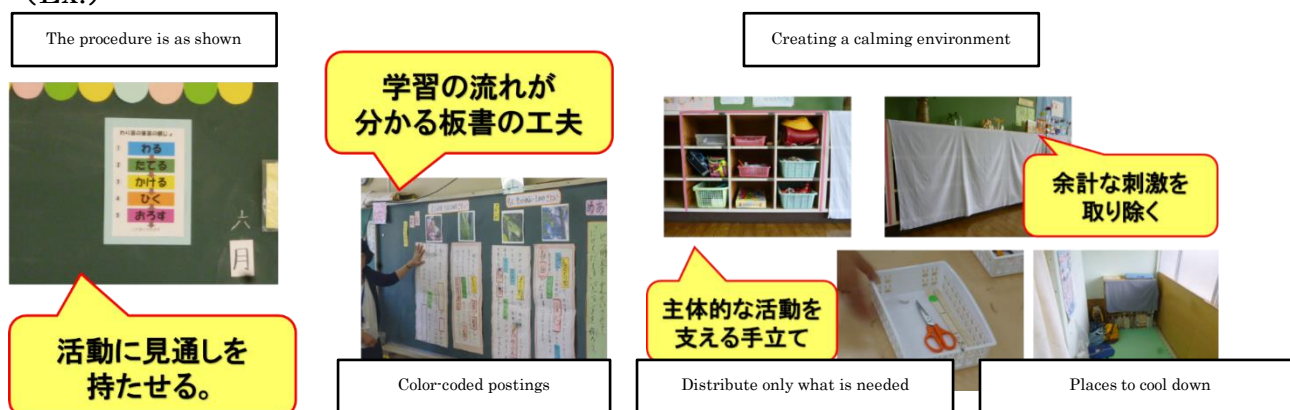
◆Special classes for children with special needs and day-care centers offer special curricula such as independent activities, which are not available in regular classes.

Independent activities are studies that aim for the harmonious development of the body and mind while fostering the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes, and habits for children to improve their independence and overcome difficulties in learning or in their daily lives due to their disabilities.

## ◆What kind of support is provided in special needs classes?

◆In order to help students be motivated in learning activities, we are promoting measures according to the characteristics of each individual student on a one-on-one basis.

(Ex.)



## ◆About the Special Needs Assistants

◆In Mihara City, special needs assistants are assigned to special needs classes as deemed necessary.

Special support assistants are assigned to children with severe or multiple disabilities enrolled in kindergartens, elementary schools, and junior high schools in order to maximize their abilities and aptitudes and to support their independence.

◆The main contents of the assistance provided are for daily life activities which includes assistance for those who have difficulty in moving around, going to the toilet, eating independently due to limb disabilities as well as ensuring the safety of those who experiences difficulty in predicting danger due to severe intellectual disabilities or various other disabilities.

The assistants are not intended to be there to provide guidance in learning (the subject matter) or to help students concentrate on their studies.



## ★What is a classroom instructional program?

◆While enrolled in a regular class and taking regular classes, children are moved to a different classroom (during day class) at designated times to receive guidance and support that is tailored to their needs, which depends on the condition of each child and other factors.

◆Eligible children are those with disabilities such as language disorders, autism, emotional disabilities, low vision, hearing loss, learning disabilities (LD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), physical disabilities, infirmity, and physical weakness.

◆In Mihara City, there are currently seven elementary schools that offer day classes. Not all schools have them, but students may attend classes at other schools. (In this case, a parent or guardian is required to pick up and drop off the child.) In Mihara City, students in the second grade of elementary school and above may also use the classrooms.

## ◆What will the children learn?

◆We aim to help children become independent and to improve and overcome the difficulties caused by their disabilities so that they can achieve emotional stability and promote language development, while learning according to each child's individual situation.

◆When the child is not able to have a positive self-esteem (the feeling that he/she can do it if he/she puts his/her mind to it), we provide guidance to increase their sense of self-esteem by adapting the content of the study according to the child's condition, etc. We also provide a variety of other services to help students learn more about themselves and their families.

◆Though individual study is the main focus, group study sessions may also be conducted when necessary.

## ★Support in regular classes

◆In order to support the students' learning, seating arrangements and other measures to help students maintain focus and concentration can be provided.

To give support to their daily lives, methods such as the visualization of various procedures and roles can also be provided.

◆Please consult with the homeroom teacher or the special needs education coordinator assigned to each school about any issues you would wish to discuss in regard to your child's development.

◆Special needs education coordinators are responsible for the liaison and coordination with welfare agencies and other related organizations, as well as doing consultations with parents.



## ◆The establishment of Special needs classes and classrooms in 2023 (Elementary Schools)

Mihara Elementary	intellectual disability	Nishi Elementary	intellectual disability 1	Shohoku Elementary	Autism/Emotional Disorders	Hongonishi Elementary	intellectual disability
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		intellectual disability 2	Nutanishi Elementary	intellectual disability		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 3		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		Private tutoring for special needs classes		Autism/Emotional Disorders 3
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 4	Tanoura Elementary	intellectual disability	Nutanishi Elementary	intellectual disability	Kui Elementary	intellectual disability
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 5		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1
	Private tutoring for special needs classes		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2	Koizumi Elementary	intellectual disability		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2
Itozaki Elementary	intellectual disability	Sunami Elementary	intellectual disability		Autism/Emotional Disorders		Private tutoring for special needs classes
	Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders	Saizaki Elementary	intellectual disability	Daiwa Elementary	intellectual disability
Kihara Elementary	Autism/Emotional Disorders	Fuka Elementary	Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders
	intellectual disability		intellectual disability 1	Hongo Elementary	intellectual disability		Private tutoring for special needs classes
Nakanocho Elementary	Autism/Emotional Disorders 1	Minami Elementary	intellectual disability 2		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 3		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		Private tutoring for special needs classes		
	hearing impairment		Autism/Emotional Disorders 3				
	physically handicapped		Private tutoring for special needs classes				
	Private tutoring for special needs classes		Autism/Emotional Disorders				
		Nuta Elementary					



◆The establishment of Special Needs Classes in 2023 (Junior High Schools)

Daiichi Junior High	intellectual disability	Daiyon Junior High	intellectual disability	Miyaura Junior High	intellectual disability	Kui Junior High	Autism/Emotional Disorders 1
	Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2
Daini Junior High	intellectual disability	Daigo Junior High	intellectual disability 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2	Daiwa Junior High	Autism/Emotional Disorders
	Autism/Emotional Disorders		Autism/Emotional Disorders 1	Hongo Junior High	intellectual disability		
Daisan Junior High	intellectual disability 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders 2		Autism/Emotional Disorders		
	intellectual disability 2	Saizaki Junior High	intellectual disability				
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 1		Autism/Emotional Disorders				
	Autism/Emotional Disorders 2						

## ★Parents' past experiences (summaries)

◆ From a mother of an Elementary school second grader (eldest son) and a first grader (second son) in a special needs class (for kids with intellectual disabilities)

Please hear me out as I talk about my son's schooling. My eldest son was receiving medical care at a local developmental support center, but even at the age of four, his speech was still not clear, so he underwent a developmental examination and was examined by a doctor. At that time, I learned for the first time about the characteristics of the "autism spectrum" developmental disorders. After that, I went to a developmental support center, where I experienced the importance of the environment by waiting for the child to slow down and adjusting to the child's pace. I thought to myself, **"It's not that he can't do it, we just need to let him learn bit by bit"** and reflected on the fact that I had failed to notice such an obvious fact. I then resolved myself by saying, **"Okay, this child's characteristics are unique, and if I, his mother, do not accept them, then who will?"** I was determined to do so. My second son, who also has developmental concerns, attended a developmental support center from the time he was young.

When it came time for the educational consultation, I was quick to request a special needs class where learning would proceed slowly and deeply with a personalized curriculum. I knew firsthand the importance of finding a suitable environment for children.

I visited the elementary school to observe the various events throughout the year. The entrance ceremony was the first big ceremony in his life, but he was able to participate. I was worried about the field day and the recital.



However, when I told him to **"take a break whenever it feels too difficult"** and to **"practice only what was taught in class,"** he learned gradually and was later able to participate in the actual event without the help of a caregiver, which was quite an amazing surprise. Since then he has been able to go to regular classes, and through this experience, I realized the importance of having support towards the growth of my children at their own pace through the experience of having two siblings attend school.

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◆ From a mother of an Elementary school second grader (eldest son) in a special needs class (for kids with emotional disorders)

He (my son) was diagnosed with being on the autism spectrum, ADHD, and developmental dyspraxia soon after he turned 4 years old. He was a difficult child to communicate with, and even after he learned to speak, he had difficulty following instructions, and his daily life was filled with violent tantrums, making strange noises, and showing obsessive behaviors. He was a very difficult child. Until he received medical treatment and after gaining much understanding, I spent many days

reprimanding him and throwing my hands up in the air, which caused me to fall into feeling self-hatred and constant exhaustion.

After receiving advice on how parents should treat their children, my husband and I took measures that were suited to the child's characteristics, and he became less angry at home and was able to live a peaceful life. I was able to spend my days calmly. **I learned that I could reduce his stress level by understanding what triggers his sense of distress, and once it was decided for him to go to elementary school, we were sure that he needed to go to a special needs class.** To determine whether an intellectual class or an emotional class would be best for him, he underwent a developmental examination, consulted with a teacher at the center, and received advice through educational consultation.

After receiving advice from a teacher at the center, I decided for him to go to a class that accommodates those with emotional disorders.

We considered the distance of the school from our home. We also considered neighboring schools, but since we have younger children as well, we thought that an elementary school in our school district would be our best choice, considering the burden of transporting them to and from school. The elementary school has a special needs coordinator, and the school also works with a rehabilitation institution to take over the child's care before he/she starts school. I know that many mothers are worried about what will happen if there is a conflict with the homeroom teacher, but this will not be known until the time comes.



Even if there is a match or a mismatch, I consider this to be just another experience since there will be a class change. **My two main wishes for my child are "that he will be able to go to school on his own and that he will be able to attend school every day".**

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◆ From a mother of an Elementary school 4th grader (eldest son) in a special needs class (for kids with intellectual disabilities)

It was soon after my son got a bit older that I began to think about enrolling him in an Elementary school. His older sister attended this elementary school and we became acquainted with the special needs education coordinator, so I contacted her in April and told her about my current situation. (That he has a certificate of rehabilitation and that I wish for him to be placed in a special needs class).

In May, I had interviews with the principal, vice principal, and special needs coordinator. There were four options: (1) an elementary school in my school district, (2) an adjacent school, (3) to go to the Mihara Special Needs School with a shuttle bus

service, and (4) the Onomichi Special Needs School which was near my workplace. We visited the school on the school visitation day and went to see the open school. We were given a tour of the school and were shown how the classes worked.

After consulting with the teacher at the day-care center and the medical care teacher, we decided on an elementary school within the school district. **I did so because I thought about my child's future involvement with the school.** I also wanted to **minimize his stress.** He has been to the elementary school many times because he has an older sister there, and we also thought that he would feel more secure knowing that there were other children from the neighborhood attending the school and that he would know familiar faces there.

From there, I had an educational consultation with the school board. The school is a small school, and the environment is very homey. Afterwards, I walked to school with the school group. (The other parents also accompanied us for a while.) In school, both his upperclassmen and lowerclassmen helped and assisted him in any way that they can. I am sure that you will be troubled with many things before you start school, but **I recommend that you do not contemplate things by yourself and consult with people as well as professionals around you, even if it is a trivial matter.** Also, there are many things that cannot be understood without actually seeing the house, so we recommend that you visit the house until you are satisfied with it.



◆ From a mother of an Elementary school sixth grader (eldest daughter) in a special needs class (for kids with intellectual disabilities)

My daughter loves drawing, history, and is a fan of the Carps Baseball team. She was diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder when she was just 4 years old. Last year, she was diagnosed again and was found to be in the autism spectrum.

I recall that she has always been hypersensitive to sounds since she was a baby and was often startled by the even just the sound of Saran Wrap being cut in the kitchen a few meters away from her.

It was very difficult for her to enter buildings in new places where she often felt uncomfortable. So even after beginning the rehabilitation process, for about a year and a half, she would only go as far as the parking lot, making it necessary for her doctor to come outside and check on her every now and then. Even when she became older, she was still very nervous and communicated with her friends only through the adults that was around her.

Now, where should she go for elementary school? It was when she was 4 years old that I started worrying about this conundrum.

At the time, I was full of impatience. **However, before I chose a school a generous mother told me, "I think it's okay to wait until you see how your child is doing. Raising a child does not mean self-servitude". These words really touched my heart, and I was able to stop myself in order to calm down.** I had been spending time without properly taking a

look around me until that point. I was wondering what I should do from there. . . . I don't remember how long it was, but I remember thinking, **"If I am going to spend the same 24 hours a day, I should let go of the idea that I "have to" and begin to enjoy my life."**

It was not until my child was older that I began to make concrete moves. I went to visit both the special needs and the regular classroom at the neighboring school as well as the elementary school in my school district. In my case, the day-care center acted as the liaison and did the preparations for the school tour as well as sent questions to the school principal. After that, we decided on the classroom that was focused on accommodating kids with intellectual disabilities based on the results of their developmental tests as well as our desire for an environment where the pace would be slow and calm.

Throughout the six years from preschool to the present, I have felt that **since it is the child who lives at school, I, as a parent, have been able to make choices that are comfortable for my child, even though parents usually have their own ideas about what they want to do.** I believe that in doing so, this will lead to the peace of mind of many parents, and give them more room in their hearts.



## Frequent Qs and As to matters related to school enrolment

Questions	Answers	Page with more info
<b>About Educational Consultations</b>		
Are there any points to talk about during educational consultation?	Before providing an educational consultation, the important point is to first consult with the family. It is also necessary to pick up on the parents' concerns, such as what problems they are having with their child, what skills they would like their child to develop, and what questions they would like to ask before the child starts school. This is so that the educational consultation can be more effective in hearing the parents' thoughts and concerns. The most important thing in educational consultation is not to worry alone. Please consult with us proactively.	P3 P4
I would like to do a school visit, however, I don't know how to apply.	It is appropriate to have the head of the kindergarten or day-care center to which you are currently affiliated with to contact the principal of the school you wish to arrange a visit with.	P4
In November, around when will the "Go to School Week" be announced? How can I apply?	The "Go to School Week" is usually held in early November. Information will be posted in the Mihara City Public Relations Office and on the city's website during October. No special application is required. Please feel free to participate.	
How do after-school day care services work, and what steps should I take in order to use them?	The related information provided by the Mihara City Disability Welfare Division can be found in pages 22 and 23. Please take a look.	P22 P23
How can I ask for help if I end up having problems after entering school?	If you have any problems after entering school, please do not hesitate to consult with your homeroom teacher, special education coordinator, or principal.	
Under what criteria should I use to select the right special needs class or school?	We believe that the one guideline one should use is by looking at the degree as to how much your child's intellectual disability is affecting his/her ability to act independently. It is also important to understand your child's condition comprehensively and objectively by doing school visits, consultations with specialists and specialized organizations, and determining as to whether or not the child has a Rehabilitation Certificate for Persons with Disabilities (Ryoiku Techo). In addition, when selecting a special needs school, one of the criteria for judgment is whether or not the school meets the criteria for enrolment as stipulated in Article 22-3 of the School Education Law Enforcement Ordinance.	P7~ P13

Special needs Classes • Questions related to Special Needs Schools		
<p>What consists of the learning content of special needs classes?</p> <p>I am concerned that my child will fall behind academically compared to the regular classes.</p>	<p>In some cases, a special needs class organizes the curriculum is uses for the grade in question based on the actual conditions of the students. While in other cases, a special curriculum is organized while referring to the curriculum of the lower grade or the curriculum guidelines as prescribed by the special needs school.</p> <p>In the case of a special curriculum for a particular grade, the curriculum is the same as that of a regular class, so there will be no significant difference in regard to the progress of the students' studies.</p> <p>In the case of a special curriculum based on the curriculum of the lower grades or the guidelines for special needs schools, the curriculum will be adapted to the pace of the child's learning. The goal is not to have all the children learn at the same pace as is the case in regular classes, but to steadily increase their ability to learn.</p>	<p>P11 P12</p>
<p>Do special needs teachers have any sort of certifications?</p>	<p>Teachers of special needs classes must always have an elementary or junior high school teaching certificate. Some of them may also have obtained an educational license/certification for special needs schools.</p>	
<p>Will there be any interaction between special needs classes and regular classes?</p>	<p>There will be interactions/exchanges between the special needs classes and regular classes.</p> <p>The exchange and joint learning in which children with disabilities and children without disabilities work together is of great significance to all the children, as it provides opportunities to deepen their experiences, develop social skills, nurture a rich sense of humanity, and learn the importance of having respect for each other.</p>	<p>P11</p>
<p>Will there be special needs classes and classrooms in every school in the future?</p>	<p>Special needs classes will be established depending on the needs of the each school.</p> <p>If the school that your child is attending does not have a special needs class, a new special needs class will be established.</p> <p>And although there is no plan to establish a special class in every school, it is possible to use a special class at a different school.</p>	<p>P14</p>
<p>What is a special needs class like?</p>	<p>Special needs classes are small-group classes that is tailored to accommodate for children with different types of disabilities, where education is provided at their own pace.</p>	<p>P11 P12</p>



	The support methods are introduced in this handbook, but you can get a better understanding of what it is like by observing an actual class in-person.	
By when should I decide as to which school to enrol my child in?	School Guidance Committee meetings are held in September, November, and January (preliminary). From there, based on the deliberations at these meetings, the Board of Education will inform the parents as to which school their child/children will be enrolled in. In addition, since enrolment in a special needs school requires consultation with the Prefectural Board of Education, please apply for an educational consultation through your preschool by the beginning of October. For special needs classes, it is necessary to apply for an educational consultation through the preschool by the beginning of January.	P1 P2
Matters related to schools		
Would my child be able to receive assistance when it comes to using the toilet?	In cases where a child is unable to use the toilet independently, assistance can be provided by Homeroom teachers and special support staff members in elementary and junior high schools. If you have any other concerns about your child's condition, please don't hesitate to consult with your preschool.	P12
Matters related to individual consultations		
How will the special needs assistants be assigned?	We will consider assigning special support assistants depending on the number of students with severe physical disabilities, the number of students in a class, and other factors. Because the number of special needs assistants is limited whereas the number of students enrolled in special needs classes is increasing each year, it may not be possible to assign a special needs assistant to every student, or one special needs assistant may be assigned to several students.	P12

◆ List of Consultation Centers

Matters related to school enrolment Matters related to educational consultations	Mihara City Board of Education Mihara City School Education Division	0848-67-6155
Matters related to child development	Mihara City Child Safety and Security Division	0848-67-6359
Matters related to after-school day care services Matters related to the acquisition of the Rehabilitation Certificate	Mihara City Disability Welfare Division	0848-67-6060

◆ Address

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三原市役所 〒729-8601 三原市港町三丁目5番1号

Mihara City Hall 〒729-8601 Mihara City, Minatomachi 3-5-1



The Disability Welfare Division will be answering your questions.

**What should I do in order to be able to use the after-school day care services?**

First, let's look at how your child's first steps in compulsory education goes.



Does this mean that I won't be able to use the services until after April 1st?

In principle, we do not accept children who continue to use our services from April 1st. Kindergartens, nursery schools, and child development services will graduate in March. Please confirm the "end" with your child.



But once my child enters Elementary school, I wouldn't know who to consult with, which makes me feel a bit anxious...

I understand your concerns. First, let's focus on putting our efforts on the following two points  
○ Observe how your child is doing in their new environment.  
○ Stay in touch with their homeroom teacher.



If you end up hearing phrases such as , "Your child seems to be having a hard time at school...", or "My child seems to be having a hard time at school..." or "My child seems to be doing well at school, but is starting to rebound at home..."  
Once your attention has been raised, please consider about using our services.



**In that situation, who should I consult with?**

Please consult with the staff in the Disabilities Welfare Division (they are in charge of the services), the person in charge at the consultation support office, or the child development support office, by saying "I think I need after-school day care services..."



**Would I be able to use it straight away?**

Immediate use would be quite difficult as there are two things that are required for application.  
(1) A doctor's written opinion (must include the name of the diagnosis) or a medical notebook  
(2) An individual support plan prepared by the school





How do I obtain a Doctor's written opinion?

The doctor will need to know more about your child's condition when writing his/her opinion, so please consult with your usual consultant/doctor first.



What is a school plan?

This is an "Individualized Educational Support Plan" developed by the school for children who needs this support. It is prepared with the consent of the child's parents. The Disability Welfare Division staff will ask the school to submit the plan after the application is submitted. This is done in order to base the decision to provide the services on the child's status of support and daily life at the school.



But my child is not enrolled in a special needs class...

In such cases, the Disabilities Welfare Division will also ask the student to submit documents to the school teacher that shows how the student is learning and living at school.



Once I have those documents, would I then be able to use your services?

Yes, that's right. The rest of the process is the same as when using child development support, i.e., having a plan made, visiting a facility, and starting to use the facility.



After-school day care services provide rehabilitation and education using after-school hours.

**【Usage fee】**The usage fee is 10% of the total cost of the service. The upper limit is set at three levels depending on income: 0 yen, 4,600 yen, and 37,200 yen per month.



**【Exception】**Please consult with a Consultation Support Specialist if you believe that you will clearly have trouble living in elementary school if you do not continue to use the service.

If you have further questions, please contact us. **【Disabilities Welfare Division】**

Tel. 0848-67-6060 (Direct)

