

A stylized, light blue illustration of a plant with several leaves and a cluster of small, round buds or flowers, positioned on the left side of the slide against a dark blue background.

Kindergartens/ Child Daycare Centers in Yokohama

Explained in Simple Japanese and English

August 31, 2018

What are the differences?

Establishments Key points	Youchi-en (Kindergartens)	Hoiku-en (Child Daycare Centers)	Nintei-Kodomo-en *None in Kohoku ward
Task What they do	<i>Kyouiku</i> Education	<i>Hoiku</i> Childcare for working parents	Both <i>Kyouiku</i> and <i>Hoiku</i>
Qualifying ages	From 3 years old (child needs to be 3 by April 1st) Choose from 3 years or 2 years of education	From 0 years old	From 0 years old
Hours	4hrs basis (2.5 to 5 hrs) Some kindergartens offer extended care as long as 8hrs. Closed on weekends, holidays, summer & winter breaks.	8 hrs and longer Most daycares will take extended hours and Saturdays.	4 to 8 hrs and over You can decide the hours with each establishment.
Category	Private only. Each kindergarten focuses on different policies such as religious education, their own curriculum, etc.	<i>Yokohama-shiritsu</i> (Yokohama-city-run) <i>Shiritsu</i> (Privately-run and Certified) <i>Shi-Ninsho</i> (Yokohama-city certified) = <i>Yokohama-hoiku-shitsu</i> (Yokohama Nursery Rooms) <i>Ninka-gai</i> (uncertified by Yokohama-city)	Privately-run Only
Fees Depending on the facilities, monthly fees may be determined based on the guardian's income	For application, admission, uniforms, monthly care, school bus, lunch (at the facilities that offer meals at the venues) etc. (most Kindergartens ask parents to make bento lunch)	For monthly care including meals.	For application, admission, uniforms, monthly care, and school bus, lunch, etc.

Where do I fit in?

Can the guardian stay with the child all time?
Can you watch your child by yourself during the day?

NO

Working outside or at home, taking childcare leave,
looking for a job, studying at school, suffering for long-
term illness, taking care of the ill and/or elder family
member, etc.

Working over 4 hrs/day and 16 days/month.

YES

The child is between 0 and 2 yrs old

YES

Hoiku-en,
Nintei-Kodomo-en
Yokohama-hoiku-shitsu
(Yokohama Nursery Rooms),
Katei-teki Hoiku Jigyo
(Family Nursery Project),
Nursery inside the Company,

NO

Hoiku-en,
Nintei-Kodomo-en

YES

No plan to go back to work,
work at home, etc

The child is 3 yrs and older

NO

Youchi-en,
Nintei-Kodomo-en,
Home teaching
and child care

YES

The child is between
0 to 2 yrs old and
you need a childcare
for only few hours

Temporary Childcare
Project,
Child-caring Support
System

NO

Schedule ①

	May / June ~	September	October
Youchi-en (Kindergartens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit kindergartens you are interested in. Reservation required at most schools. ▪ Most kindergartens have special events for people who are interested in attending. Call to participate in those events (open-school, sport festival, concert, etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10/15 Receive application documents DIRECTLY from kindergarten (fee may be charged) Call to find out HOW you can receive it.
Hoiku-en (Child Daycare Centers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit daycares on the day of open-school/counseling/book reading. Use “baby station” service ▪ Participate in daycares' events (food education seminars, open schools) 		<p>10/15 Receive application documents. Documents will be available at Ward Office, Gyosei (Government) Service Corner at Hiyoshi Station and Shin-Yokohama Station, all ninka-hoikusho (certified nursery school), or DROP.</p> <p>Documents are available in English, 中文、한글、Español、Português、Tagalog、Tiếng Việt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare documents for application

*“Kindergartens/Child Daycares Guidebook” is available at DROP, Bi-no Bi-no.

*2018/10/13 (Sat) Child Daycare Center Introduction Event @ TRESSA Yokohama

Schedule ②

	November	February	March
Youchi-en (Kindergartens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 11/1 File application ▪ Go in for interview. <p>Interview style will vary by kindergarten: parent and child interview, child only interview etc.)</p> <p>-> Admission results will be announced by mid-November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entrance orientation ▪ Prepare necessary equipment (uniform, bag, shoes, etc.) ▪ <i>Narashi-hoiku</i> (short stay at kindergarten for children entering in coming April) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine who will be emergency contact / will do emergency pick up
Hoiku-en (Child Daycare Centers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application form will be available from 12th Oct. ▪ Deadline for application will be the first week of November. ▪ Application documents should be sent to Yokohama City by postal mail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Results will be sent at beginning of February by postal mail ▪ If not admitted to any child daycare center, second round application is possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entrance orientation ▪ Prepare necessary equipment (bags, clothes, etc.) ▪ Determine who will be emergency contact / will do emergency pick up ▪ <i>Narashi-hoiku</i> (short stay at child daycare center for children entering in coming April)
At DROP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Get introduced to neighbor mothers who have children enrolled in the same kindergartens/child daycare centers. *Get information regarding a kinds of daycare centers. 		

Documents necessary for application

Youchi-en (Kindergartens)

- Application form (form is distributed at the kindergarten)
 - Other documents requested by the kindergarten
 - Some kindergartens may require the certificate of annual income of the child's guardian. This document is necessary to determine the monthly fee at kindergartens where the fee is determined based on the guardian's income.
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Hoiku-en (Child Daycare Centers)

※ Note that documents need to be in required format.

1. Documents to provide evidence that the child's guardian has a valid reason for requesting child daycare, such as employment, education, etc.
2. Certificate of annual income of the child's guardian (this document is necessary to determine the monthly fee, which is determined based on the guardian's income.)
3. '*Riyou Annai*' (application document for Yokohama Child Daycare Center)
(2018 version →
<http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kohoku/sabisu/hoiku/h31riyousinsei.html>)

Tips for finding kindergartens/child daycare centers that suit your family needs

- **Gather information**
- **Visit the kindergartens/daycarescenter**
 - * **Better to visit during daycare hours**
 - **How is the environment? (both the outside and inside)**
 - **Is there enough space for children to play?**
 - **Is there enough space to play outside?**
 - **Is there enough space for babies to take a nap?**
(at child daycare centers)
 - **How are the staff?**
 - **Make sure to speak with the principal and/or staff.**
- **Check the childcare policy of the kindergartens/daycare centers – does it fit your family’s policy?**
(religious education, their own curriculum, school uniforms, school provided lunch, etc.)

Where can I get advice?

- Come to us with questions. We are ready to help!

- *Hoiku* (Nursery) Concierge @ Kohoku Ward Office, 1F, No.14 Tel:045-540-2280
- Kohoku Ward's Children and Families Support Division Tel:045-540-2320
- DROP MSC (Multicultural Support Club) Tel:045-540-7420
- Yokohama Kohoku International Lounge Tel:045-430-5670
<http://kohokulounge.com>
- YOKE (YOKOHAMA ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND EXCHANGES)
<http://www.yoke.or.jp/>
- Earth Plaza Educational Consultation for Foreigners
<http://www.earthplaza.jp/>