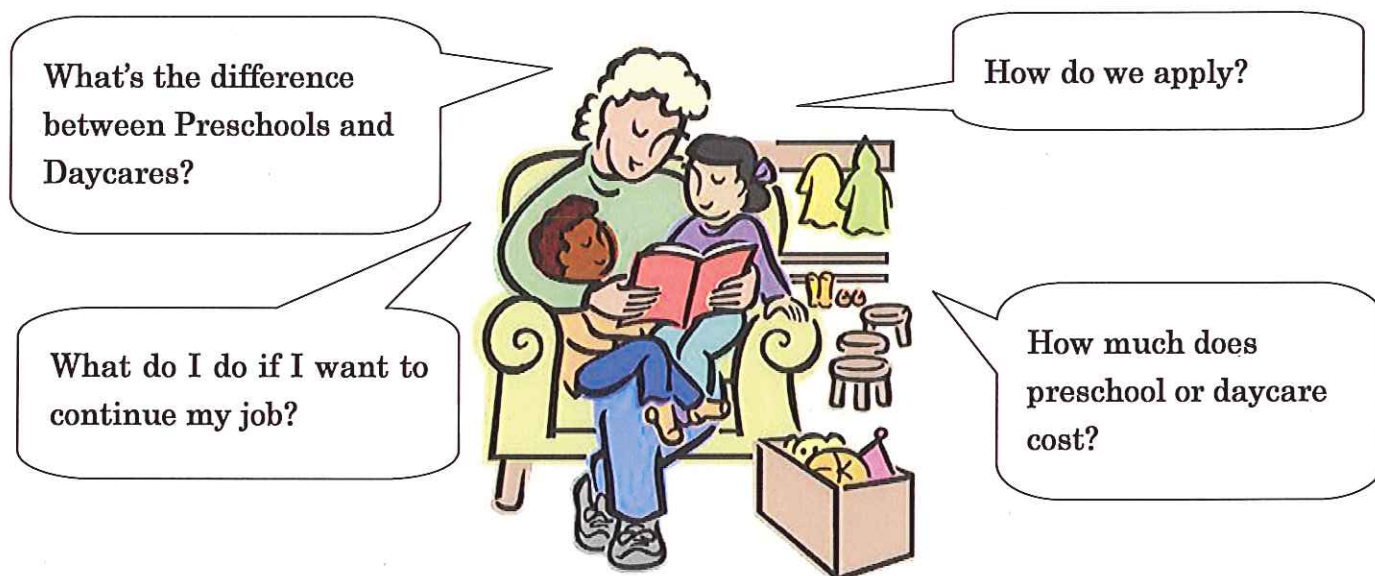




Published by the Saitama Tourism and International Relations Bureau (STIB)  
International Exchange Center

Revised Edition of No. 5

## Preschools and Daycares in Saitama City



In Saitama City, there are preschools which children can attend from age three until they enter elementary school and daycares which children can attend from birth until elementary school.

Saitama City provides financial support for families currently raising children, and also provides them with important information via:

- Saitama child-raising WEB <http://www.saitama-kosodate.jp>
  - Saitama City Child Relating Support Booklet (English, Korean and Chinese)  
(You can obtain it at each ward office or at the Child Raising Support Center.)
- You can see not only the information related to Preschools and Daycares, but also other useful information related to child raising. Please take a look!



# Preschool Vs. Daycare



## What's the difference?



### Preschool

A preschool is a place where children aged three to five play and learn as a group. Each preschool has different teaching methods. School hours are usually from 9:00 am ~ 2:00 pm but depend on the preschool. The preschool school year begins in April with long vacations in summer, winter and spring.

### Daycare

Daycares provide care for children whose parents are unable to take care of them at home. Children are eligible to attend from birth until they enter elementary school. Unlike preschools, the focus in daycares is on daily care (for example providing a nap time), rather than on learning. Hours can be adjusted to fit parents' work schedules but generally range between 7:30 am and 7:00 pm. Children can be enrolled in a daycare if:

- Both parents work.
- The mother will be giving birth soon.
- A parent is sick.
- There has been a natural disaster.
- There is an ill person at home who must be attended to.

This service is not available on short notice. Requests must be made in advance.



## How to enter?

### Preschool

Application forms are distributed from October 15 at each Preschool. Completed applications can be submitted to the respective preschools from November 1. The application for public preschool has been closed for this year. (application forms for the public preschool are distributed from the second or third week of September and must be submitted by the beginning of October). Children enroll in preschool in April following the year in which they applied. Please gather information about each Preschool by attending explanation sessions or by looking on the "Saitama Kosodate WEB" website and choose the one that best fits your beliefs and your child's personality.

Note: The dates described above are for the year 2012 and may differ from other years.

### Daycare

Please obtain the Daycare Center Application Guide at the Assistance Division of your local ward office, ward branch office, administrative service windows or certified daycare centers. Submit completed application forms to the Assistance Division of your local ward office by the 10th of the month preceding the month in which you would like your child to enter daycare. You will be notified whether or not your child can be admitted by mail.

(For those who wish to enter their child into a daycare in April 2013: You can obtain the Daycare Center Application Guide from October 1. Submit the completed application form between Oct. 26 and Nov. 6. You will be notified as to whether or not your child can be admitted in February of 2013.)



## I still want my child to go to preschool, even though I am working.

- For an additional fee, some preschools provide childcare for enrollees before and after official preschool hours and some of these preschools also provide full daycare on holidays (during summer, winter and spring holiday).
- There is one public center in Saitama City which serves both as a preschool and daycare.



## How much do preschools and daycares cost?

### Preschool

Tuition and daycare fees are different at each preschool. In addition to these, parents may have to pay for uniforms, education materials, school bus services and school lunch. Parents in Saitama City who have registered with the Basic Residence Register as of July 1 are eligible to apply for an annual ¥40,000 child education grant. A subsidy is also available, the amount of which depends on parents' income. You can apply for both the subsidy and grant at your child's preschool.

### Daycare

Monthly daycare fees depend on the age of your child and parent income. Also, in general, the younger your child is, the higher the monthly fee.



## What about non-certified daycare centers?

### 【Facilities that follow all Saitama City regulations (but not all national regulations)】

- Nursery rooms (from birth up until elementary school)
- Home-based daycare rooms (from birth up to age three)

《Note》 ・Applications must be made directly to respective daycare facility.

- ・ The daycare facility decides whether or not they can look after the child. (The conditions required are the same as certified daycare centers).
- ・ The hours of operation and fees differ for each daycare facility.
- ・ A grant of ¥20,000 per month is provided if you cannot take care of your child for longer than 4 hours per day, 4 days per week.

### 【Other Daycare Facilities】

- Non-certified daycare facilities

Each facility has its own hours and childcare methods, so you can choose the one that best matches your work schedule and lifestyle. In some cases, children may be accepted even if you do not work.

- Company daycare facilities

Facilities provided by companies for their employees. They are convenient due to the proximity to your workplace. Ask the company you are working for or the company that you are planning to work for whether or not this service is available.



**Parents with small children  
come together at...**

## **The WAI WAI Salon!**

**Date / Time:** November 20, 2012 (Tuesday) AM 10:00 ~12:00

**Place:** International Exchange Center

(9<sup>th</sup> Floor of Comunale, above the PARCO Shopping Plaza)

**Fee:** FREE!

**Contact:** The Saitama Tourism and International Relations Bureau  
International Exchange Center

### **Parents from overseas !**

**You can be heroes and heroines at the WAI WAI Salon!**

**The WAI WAI Salon is a place where everybody helps  
each other with child-raising issues.**

**Speak your native tongue and have fun raising your  
kids in Japan!**

**Join our WAI WAI Salon!**



The WAI WAI Salon is hosted by PURATTO ASOBOU DOT G and will be held from 10 am to noon every Tuesday (except the first Tuesday of the month) at the International Exchange Center, Starting April 2013.

Young parents raising young children or expecting a baby are welcome.

You do not need to speak Japanese. You can speak your native tongue, and you may see the other parents from your country!

Speaking with others who are in similar circumstances may help relieve any worries you have about daily life and child-raising in Japan.

(NOTE: The DOT G gathering on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month will be continued as usual)

The Saitama Tourism and International Relations Bureau (STIB)  
International Exchange Center

Place : 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the COMUNALE Complex, Higashi Takasagocho 11-1 Urawa-ku Saitama City  
TEL: 048-813-8500 FAX: 048-887-1505 E-mail : [iec@stib.jp](mailto:iec@stib.jp) URL : <http://www.stib.jp/kokusai>