

ven before they enter elementary school, Japanese children are kept busy every day with classes. A variety of subjects are available, including swimming, piano, Japanese calligraphy, and foreign languages. Approximately 80% of pre-elementary school children attend at least one class. There are even children who manage to attend around four or five classes. The monthly tuition and other fees for one class can cost between 5,000 yen to 10,000 yen.

い事で忙しい毎日を送っています。習い事には水泳やピアノ、書道、語学と様々なものがあります。小学生までの子どものうち80パーセントが、何か一つでもない事をしています。なかには4つ5つの習い事をかけもちしている子どももいます。一つの習い事にかかすがあります。かけつる費用は1ヵ月でおよそ5,000円から10,000円です。

There are over 200 children attending Yoseikan, a *karate dojo* in Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture. Of them, 43 students are in kindergarten. The main reason the parents chose this *dojo* is so their children can learn self-discipline and good manners. At the *dojo* 

qualities of independence are encouraged by teaching children the proper way to reply to questions, how to greet others, how to correctly remove and stow their shoes and correct posture. Yoseikan is not only a place where you can acquire *karate* skills; it's also a place that builds mental strength.

す。養正館は空手そのものを教えるだけではなく、精神的ななるです。です。な強さを育てる道場でもあるのです。

"In Japan children used to be taught discipline and correct manners at school and at home, but in modern Japan this is no longer the case. These days adults are inconsiderate of others, and do not exchange greetings. Such adults cannot

properly teach their children what is right and what is wrong," says the head of the *dojo*, WATANABE Takato.

「日本では昔から学校や家庭が子どものしつけや礼儀を教えてきましたが、現在はそうではありません。今の大人は思いやりにかけ、あいさつ

しても返してきません。このような大人が、自分の子ども ななに、ただ に何が正しいことか教えることはできません」と館長の がなななかと 渡辺貴斗さんは話します。



One of the mothers of a kindergarten student attending the *dojo* says, "After my child began *karate* here, he become more positive about facing challenges, he also lines up his own shoes at the entrance after taking them off without anyone telling he to do so. He looks forward to every class saying, 'Karate is tough but fun.'"



WATANABE Takato わたなべたかと 渡 辺 貴 斗さん

さらしょうかまます。またいない。 道場に通う幼稚園児の子どもを持つ ははいいないできた始めて子どもが色々な事に前向きに挑戦 するようになってきました。また、玄関を通るたび、何も こされなくても自分からくつを並べるようになりました。 からてません。と毎回楽しみしているようです」と感想を話します。

Watanabe says, "Once children acquire that enjoyable feeling that they can do anything they put their mind to, they begin to aim higher and thus develop their natural abilities. In fact, one of our third year elementary school girls won the national championships in 2010."

たなべ 渡辺さんは「『やればできる、楽しい』という気持ちを するなまったとした。 子どもたちに持たせれば、子どもたちは素直にもっと上を 自指すようになり、才能を発揮します。実際、2010年に しようがく ねんせい おんな こ ぜんこくだいかい にほんいち 小 学 3 年生の女の子が全国大会で日本一になりました」 と言います。

Recently, because of the influence of figure skater ASADA Mao and golfer ISHIKAWA Ryo, the numbers of children taking lessons in sports that are typically considered to be for adults only have risen. Kid's Golf located in Minato Ward, Tokyo, provides golf lessons for children. The most unusual feature of this school is the location of the classes; together with an instructor, children practice on an actual golf course.

最近ではフィギュアスケートの浅田真央選手やプロゴルファーの石川 遼 選手の影響もあり、フィギュアスケートやゴルフといった大人と同じようなスポーツを習う子どもたちも増えてきました。東京都港区にあるキッズ

ゴルフ株式会社は、子ども向けのゴルフスクールを運営しています。一番の特徴は、インストラクターと一緒に、またます。本物のゴルフ場でレッスンが行われることです。

PR representative, KOSHIGOE Saeko says, "Japan does not have an environment where children can enjoy a lighthearted game of golf at golf courses. Our aim is to offer an opportunity for children to get a taste of what golf is, and hope they will grow to like it."

広報窓口担当の腰越沙衣子さんは、「日本には子どもたちが気軽にゴルフ場でのゴルフを楽しめるような環境がありません。子どもたちに本物のゴルフにふれてもらい、好きになってもらいたいです」と話します。

At 37,000 yen for two lessons a month, tuition is rather expensive, but there is no dress code and golf clubs can be rented free of charge. There are currently approximately 40 first to sixth grade elementary school students of both sexes enrolled at the school. Many golf-mad parents sign their children up for lessons, but as children quickly improve they too find themselves completely caught up in the sport.

Giving children the opportunity to study a variety of subjects increases the chances that they'll realize their true potential. Parents express their love for their children by giving them this chance to grow into respectable adults while enjoying themselves.