

February 2024



# Action for Children's Future

— 2024 —

Pocket Book



TOKYO  
METROPOLITAN  
GOVERNMENT



Toward realization of  
**Tokyo's Children First,**  
implementation of concrete actions

**By sincerely listening to views  
and thoughts** of children,

from the viewpoint of **"the best  
interests of the child"**

It is important above all **to update  
child-oriented policies.**



Based on "Action for Children's  
Future", we will **practice  
dialogue and  
create "present"  
and "future"  
together with children.**



# Action for Children's Future 2024

## Pocket Book

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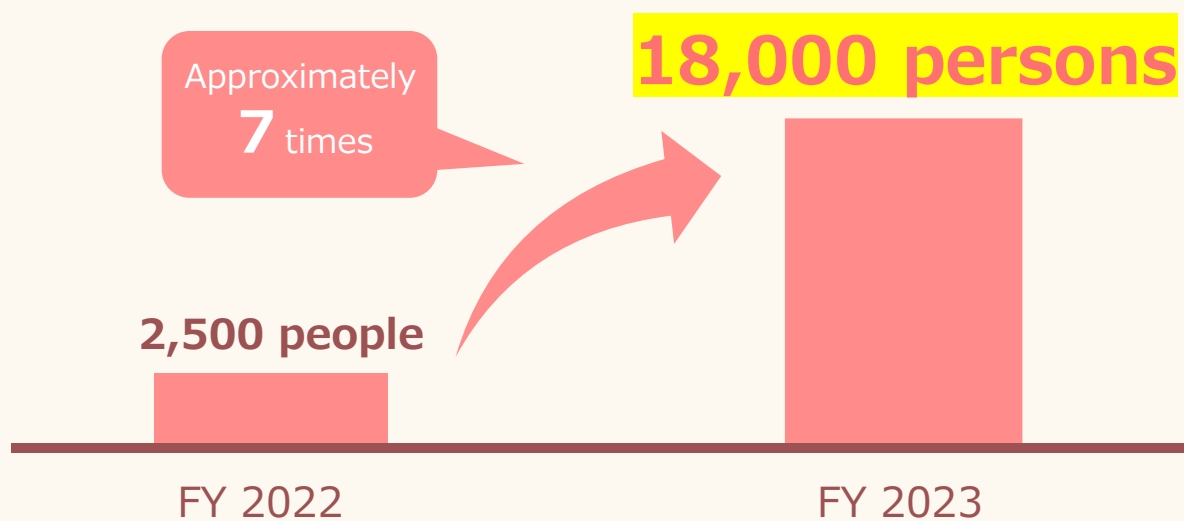
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# Reflecting Actual Situations, Views And Thoughts of Children to Child-Oriented Policies

From the viewpoint of “the best interests of the child”, updating child-oriented policies

## Listening to children’s views widely

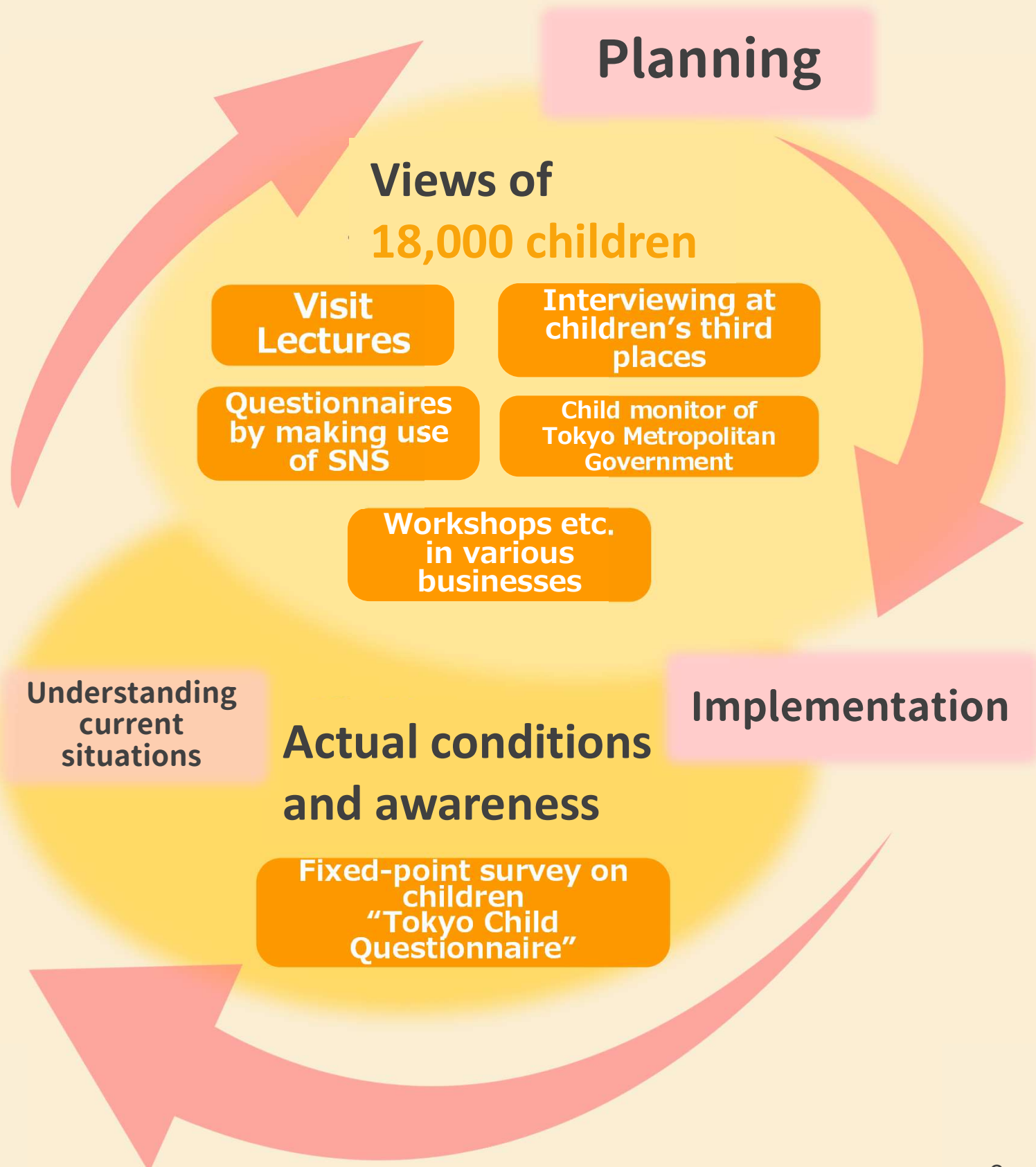
We listened to a number of frank views of children.



## Direction of strengthening policies

- At each stage of understanding current situations/planning/implementation etc., understanding children’s views and evidence (actual conditions and awareness), flexibly updating child-oriented policies according to the situations

# Promotion of Child-Oriented Policies Reflecting Children's Views and Evidence





# Children's Growing Up in Infancy

## Enriching learning and experiencing for all the infants

In the era of **VUCA**, non-cognitive skills have been drawing attention.

**VUCA**      **V**olatility    **U**ncertainty  
                 **C**omplexity   **A**mbiguity

### Non-cognitive skills

Mental abilities  
related to **oneself**

- Self-esteem
- Self-appraisal
- Motivation
- Persistence

Mental abilities  
related to **sociability**

- Ability of mind to understand
- Empathy
- Thoughtfulness
- Cooperativity

**Infancy** = important period to cultivate non-cognitive skills

### Direction of strengthening policies

- **"Tokyo Sukuwaku Program"** specific to Tokyo is developed throughout Tokyo

# What is Tokyo Sukuwaku Program?

Program that support **making progress/growing up (Sukusuku) × curiosity/spirit of inquiry (Wakuwaku)** in kindergartens and nursery schools.



We will foster “what?” and “what is it?” as **curiosity** and **spirit of inquiry** to be absorbed in playing with good care

For example...

## Inquiry of light



✓ Enjoying light that reflecting in the water etc.

## Inquiry of sound



✓ Feeling vibration of sound by using music instrument.

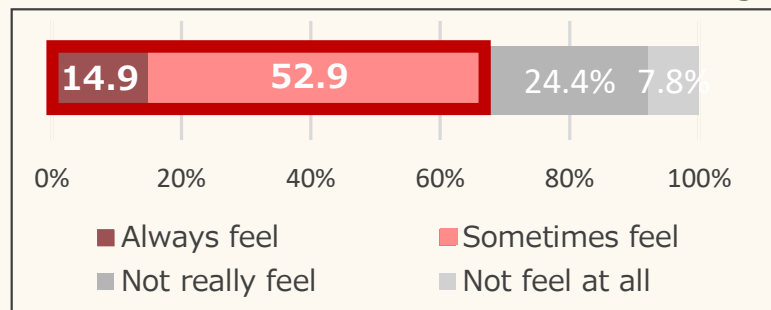
Through “**Sukuwaku Program**”, supporting growing up of mind of all infants

# Creation of Connection for Child-Rearing

Prevention/resolution of loneliness and isolation of child-rearing by “connection”

**Approximately 70% of families have anxieties and concerns of child-rearing**

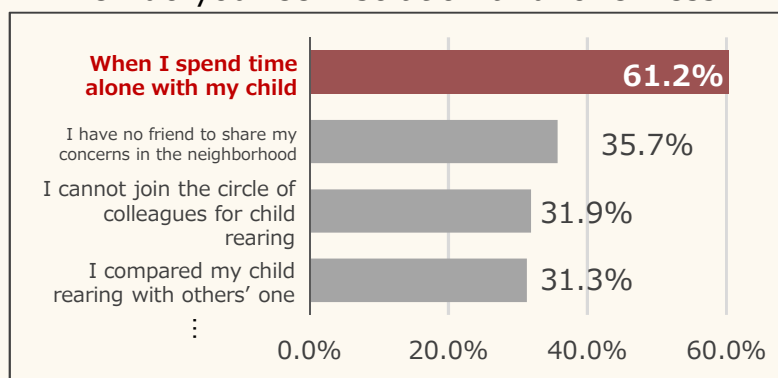
<About anxieties and concerns of child-rearing>



(Material) Prepared based on “FY 2021 Survey and Study on Comprehensive Promotion of Home Education” by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

**There is loneliness and isolation of child-rearing families in the background**

<When do you feel “isolation and loneliness”?>



(Material) Prepared based on “Survey on Loneliness and Isolation during Child-Rearing” researched by local community “PIAZZA” (conducted in October of 2020)

## Direction of strengthening policies

- Realizing delicate **watching over** for child-rearing families



# “Family Attendant” will start at full scale from FY 2024 !

Supporting municipalities that work on  
family attendant.



## Supporting child rearing families by **outreach type**



- ◆ Visit families that have babies
- ◆ Delivering supplies for child rearing together with child-rearing information



## Attendants close to child-rearing families

- ◆ Conversation partner for people's daily worries about child-rearing
- ◆ Playing “together with” children  
Going to government office and hospital “together with” people etc.  
Support while escorting people



# Creation of “connection” with people

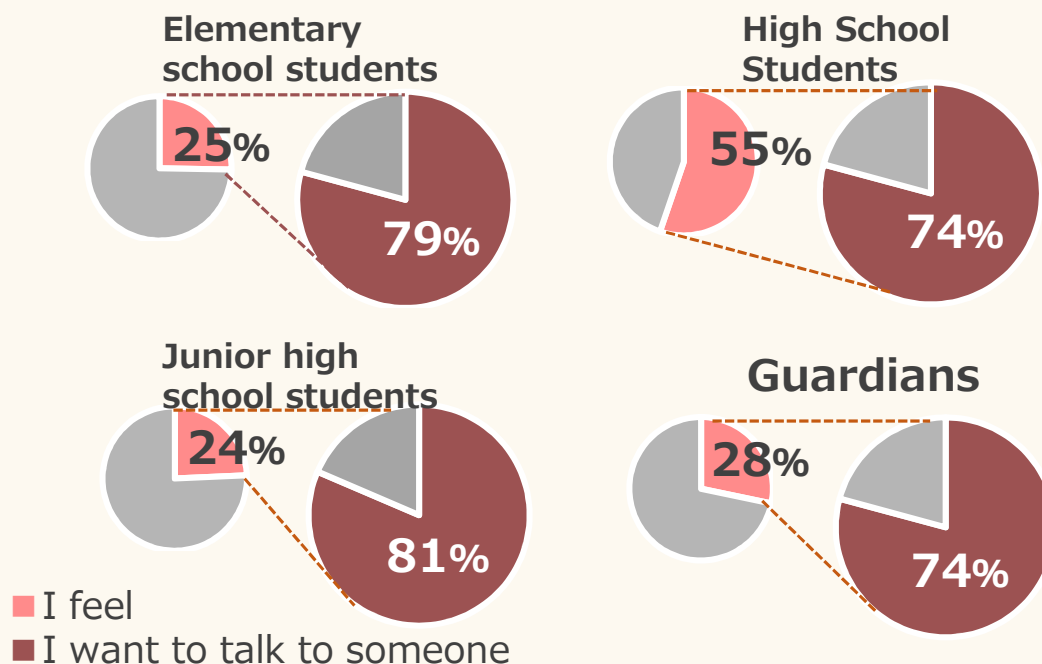
# Creation of Connection for Child-Rearing

Preventing aggravation of anxieties and concerns for children and child-rearing families

Not only **child-rearing families** but also **children themselves feel loneliness and isolation and seek for connection with others**

<Whether you want to talk to somebody when you feel loneliness and isolation, or feel sense of isolation

Among the persons who answered "feeling" loneliness and isolation, the ratio of the ones who answered, "I want to talk to someone".

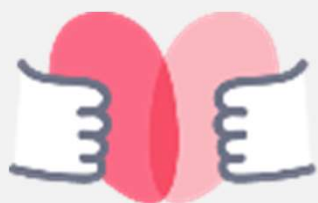


※Prepared based on the questionnaire survey conducted by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Liaison Office for Child-Oriented Policies (survey target approximately 3,200 children (elementary school, junior high school, high school students) and guardians (of preschoolers, elementary school, junior high school, high school students) who reside in Tokyo

## Direction of strengthening policies

- Preventing loneliness/isolation by **chat consulting service making use of SNS etc.**

# We will start “Comforting Chat” from FY 2024 !



## ギョツとチャット

◦ Chat consulting by which people can **consult daily anxieties and concerns** via SNS etc.

### **Point!** of “Comforting Chat”

- ✓ Available **without giving one's real name**
- ✓ **Possible to select from a variety of advisors.**
- ✓ Available for **continuous consultation** with the same advisor as last time
- ✓ Possible to **freely** talk about the state of feeling gloomy



Experienced personnels for providing consultations including psychologists and public health nurses will address the consultations !



Available from a smartphone or PC !

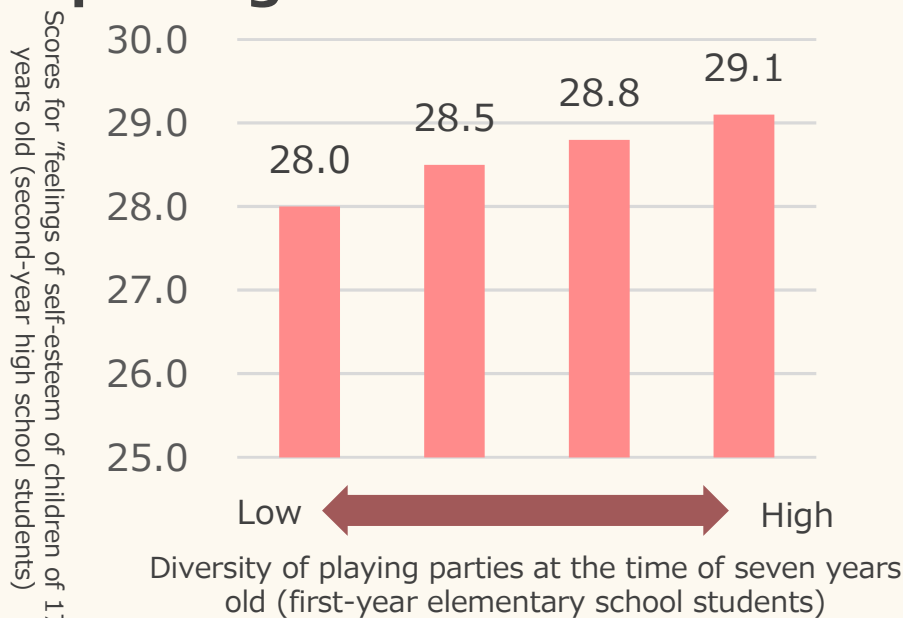


## Creation of “connection” via digital technologies

# Promotion of “Play” Leading to Children’s Smiles

“Play” means to foster power to live for children

“Play with diverse parties” in infancy will have favorable effects on the subsequent growth of children



(Material) Prepared based on “FY 2020 Report on Results of Survey and Study on Youth Experience Activities~ Analysis Results of Experience Activities by Making Use of Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century”

## Direction of strengthening policies

- Promotion to create playgrounds by reflecting children’s views
- Enhancement of diverse experience opportunities through “play”
- Development of human resource to support “play” of children
- Promotion of understanding for “play” of children by local communities



# Reflecting Children's Views for Creation of Playgrounds

Supporting municipalities that engage in creation of playgrounds by reflecting children's views

Workshop



Children's views

+

Playgrounds



Interview



Visit Lecture

## Enhancement of experience opportunities through play

Support "desires for playing" through various events



Free handicraft by using waste



Digging

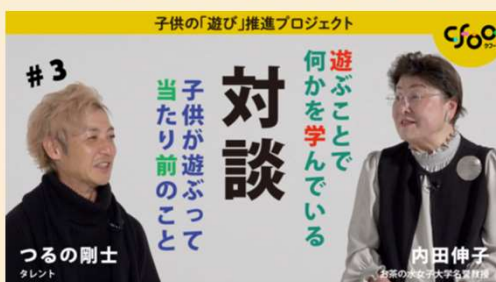


Sweet potato baked by open fire



Monkey Bridge

## Dissemination of importance of play



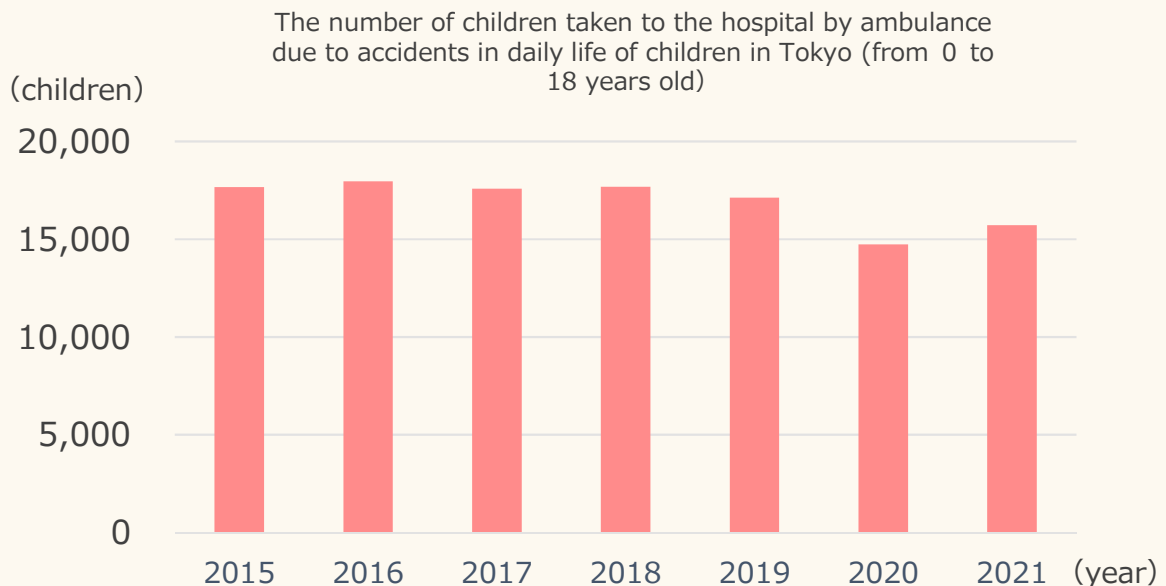
Dialogue by Mr. Takeshi Tsuruno and Ms. Nobuko Uchida (Honorary Professor of Ochanomizu University)



# Creation of Circumstances to Protect Children from Accidents

Realizing society where children can take on challenges without worry

The number of children taken to the hospital by ambulance due to accidents remain almost **flat**



(Material) Prepared based on "Actual Conditions of Accidents in Daily Life Viewed from Emergency Transportation Data" by Tokyo Fire Department

## Direction of strengthening policies

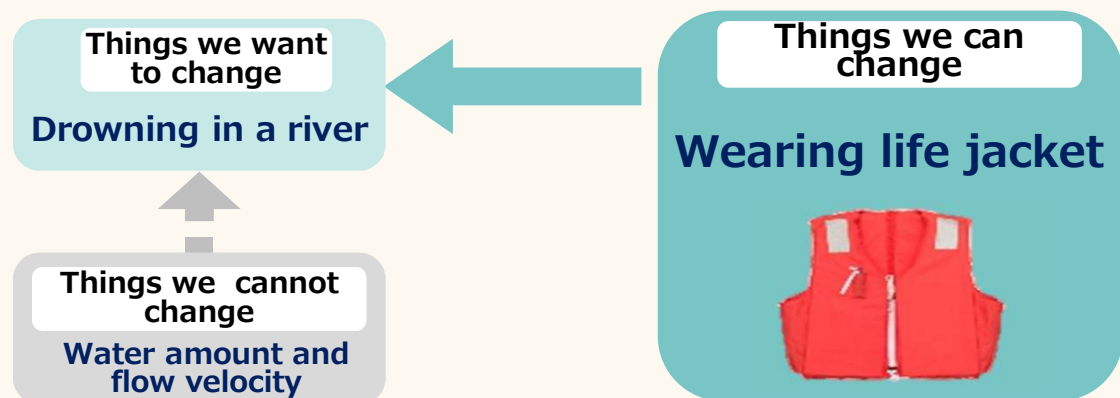
- There is a limit with watching over alone to prevent from causing accidents
- Preventing accidents by "changing" "things we can change"

# What “things that we can change” “change” means...

For example, when  
playing in a river

“Things we want to change” is to **drown in the river** !

Against this, by “**changing**” **behavior** to **wear life jacket**, we can prevent accidents of drowning.



## Development of evidence-based preventative measures

- Implementing **survey/studies** to prevent accidents and transmitting **proposals based on scientific methods**.



(Example) Measuring physical abilities of children



(Example) Conducting 3D measurement for movements of children



Data analysis of accident cases etc.

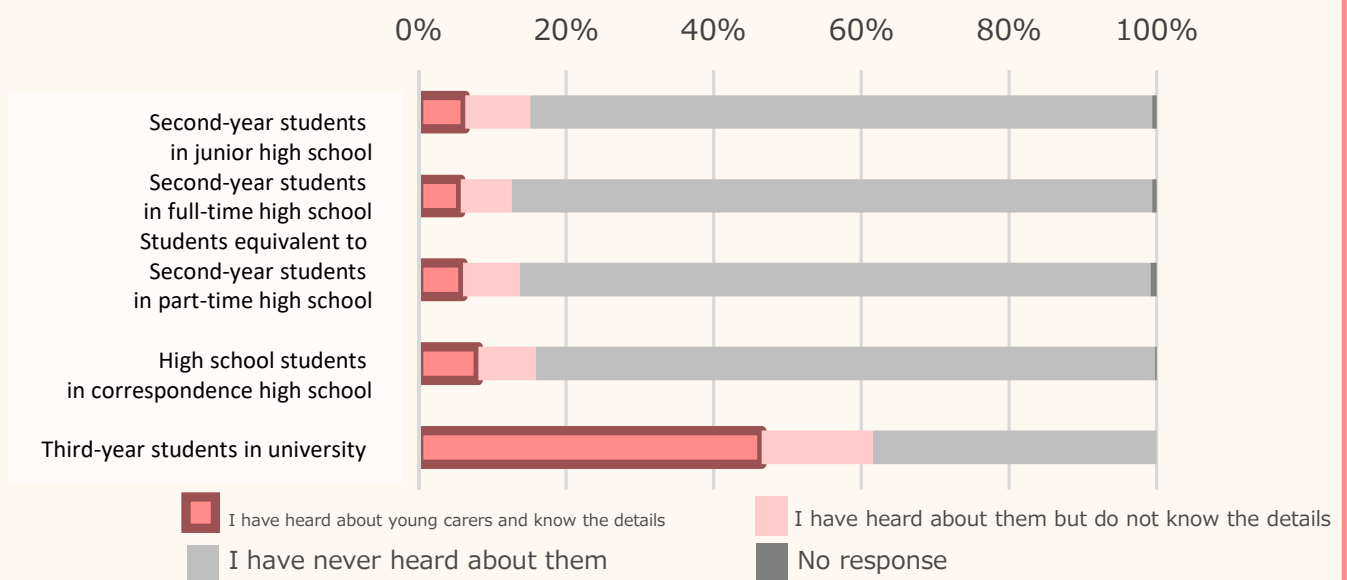
**Ensuring prevention of “preventable accidents”**



# Support for Young Carers

## Development of support tailored to individuals

In the generation of parties concerned, the degree of recognition "Young Carer" is low



(Material) Prepared based on "FY 2020 Survey and Study on Actual Conditions of Young Carers" and "FY 2021 Survey and Study on Actual Conditions of Young Carers" by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (※Period of survey differs according to each generation)

## Direction of strengthening policies

- Promoting creation of environment to **promptly recognize** young carers
- Strengthening base of **collaboration between multiple organizations** and information sharing system
- Enhancement of **multifaceted and continuous support** to young carers
- Strengthening support for **needs of the whole family** with a young carer



# Website to Support Young Carers Production of “Plaza for Young Carers”



## ✓ Point 1

Young carers themselves participate in **HP production process**



State of workshop

## ✓ Point 2

Production of contents to deepen understanding about young carers



Animation



Documentary

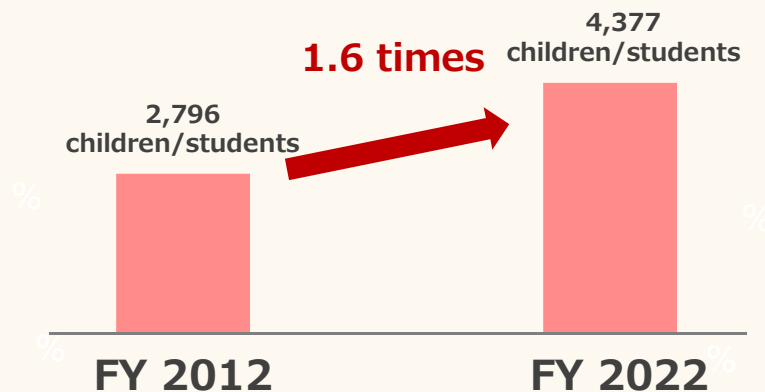
**Publicize HP strategically**  
⇒ **Increase social recognition of Young Carers**

# Support for Children Whose Native Languages Are Not Japanese

## Multifaceted support tailored to individual actual state

The number of children requiring instruction of Japanese in Tokyo has increased by 1.6 times in the last decade

The number of children/students requiring instruction of Japanese  
(Tokyo Metropolitan area)



(Material) "Survey on Acceptance State of Children/Students Requiring Instruction of Japanese" (FY 2012) by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and "Survey on Acceptance State of Children/Students Requiring Instruction of Japanese" (FY 2022) by Tokyo Metropolitan Board of Education

### Direction of strengthening policies

- **Enhancement of opportunities to learn Japanese**
- **Support to acquire necessary skills for daily life**
- **Promoting consultation system and creation of third place from the viewpoint of children**

# Aiming at Society where Children whose Native Languages are not Japanese Can Take Active Roles lively by their own values

Support municipalities to engage in creation of third places for children whose native languages are not Japanese

## Multicultural Kids Salon

Third places for children to enable "learning", "consultation" and "interaction"

### Learning



**Support for learning Japanese** tailored to individuals

### Consultation



**Delicate measures for consultation** to offer support for anxieties and concerns of children and guardians

### Interaction



By creating connection with many people, **supporting from psychological aspects and aspects of daily life etc.**



# Youth Healthcare

**By resolving health problems peculiar to adolescence, enhancing health of youths**

**With respect to health in adolescence, 50% of junior high school and high school students is interested in their body** (secondary sexual character etc.) **and their mind** (depression etc.)

Q. What kind of themes on health of junior high school and high school students are you interested in?

About body  
(secondary sexual character,  
lifestyle habit etc.)

48%

About mind  
(mental health, depression  
etc.)

45%

n=5,000

※Multiple  
answers

※Excerpt from  
questionnaire of  
anonymous type  
for SNS users  
(conducted from  
December 5 to 14  
of 2023)

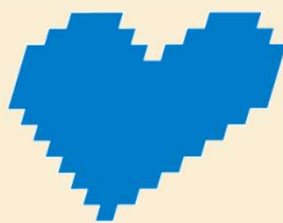
## Direction of strengthening policies

- Strengthening **information distribution** etc. based on **views of youths**
- Promoting **development of circumstances for consultation** from the viewpoint of youths



# Transmitting Health Information That Youths Should Know in Adolescence from Their Viewpoint

**TOKYO**  
**YOUTH**  
**HEALTHCARE**



— Website for health and medical treatment from teenage —

## Transmitting information that youths want to know

- ✓ Publishing articles based on the questionnaires for youths
- ✓ Emergency contraception, eating disorder, gender diversity etc.



## Accurate and Safe due to supervision by experts

- ✓ Being supervised by multiple experts from various perspectives
- ✓ Supporting information collection of youths that use the Internet on a daily basis

## Easily viewable website by using ideas of youths

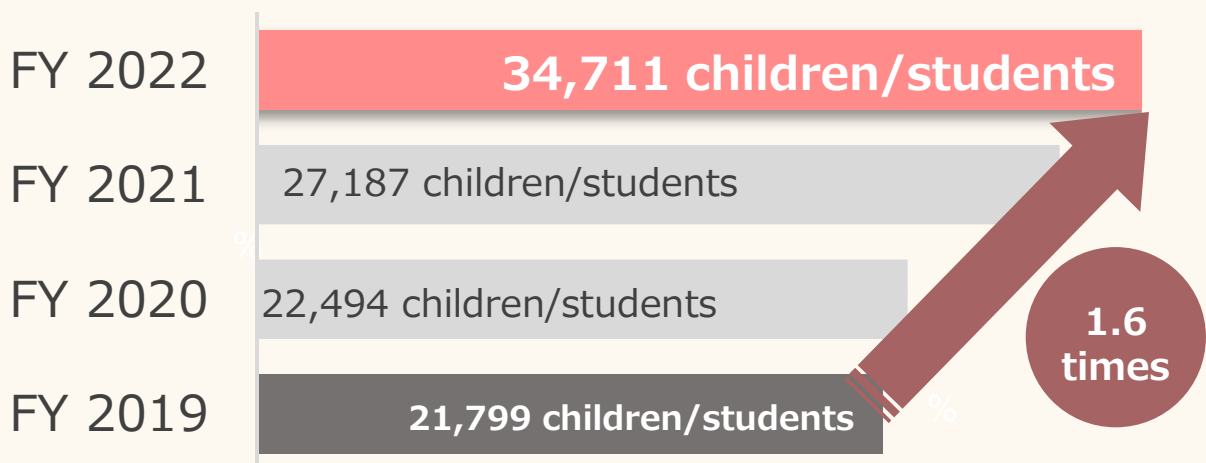
- ✓ Designed from the viewpoint of digital native youth generation
- ✓ High operability with multi-device support



# Growing-Up of School-Age Children

“Tokyo” where even children who cannot become familiar with school life can grow up by their own values  
~ By their own values, just as they are~

Changes in the number of children/students who are unable to attend school (Tokyo Metropolitan area)



(Material) Prepared based on "Survey on Challenges upon Instructing Problematic Behaviors/Non-Attendance of Children and Students Etc." by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Board of Education and "Actual Conditions of Problematic Behaviors/Non-Attendance of Children and Students Etc." at Private Schools in Tokyo" by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Bureau of Citizens, Culture and Sports.

## Direction of strengthening policies

- Starting **support for users of free schools etc.**
- Starting **support for free schools etc.** that aim at enhancement of support for actions of children
- Launching **survey and studies of diverse learning outside school**

# Reducing the Burden of Usage Fees of Free Schools etc.

New

Subsidizing usage fees for children at the compulsory education stage who are unable to attend school (upper limit: 20,000 yen per month)

## Supporting free schools etc. that work on education from children's viewpoint

New

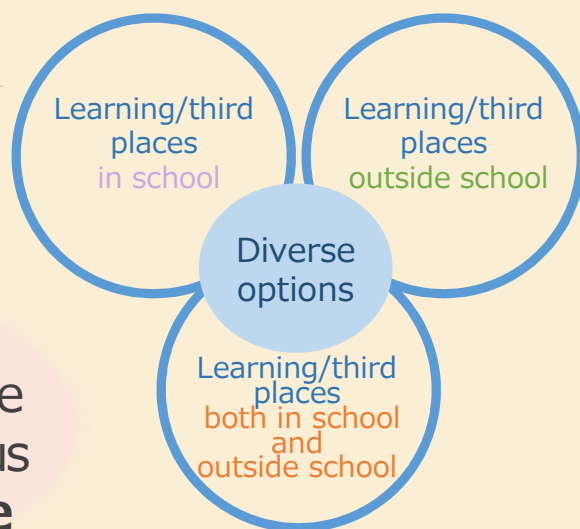
Subsidizing the costs required for enhancement of experience programs and safety improvement etc.

## Researching diverse learning outside school

New

Establishing method to attract children's interest/attention and maximize intellectual curiosity

**Making options of learning/third places** of children who cannot become familiar with school life and face various challenges in their lives **more diverse**

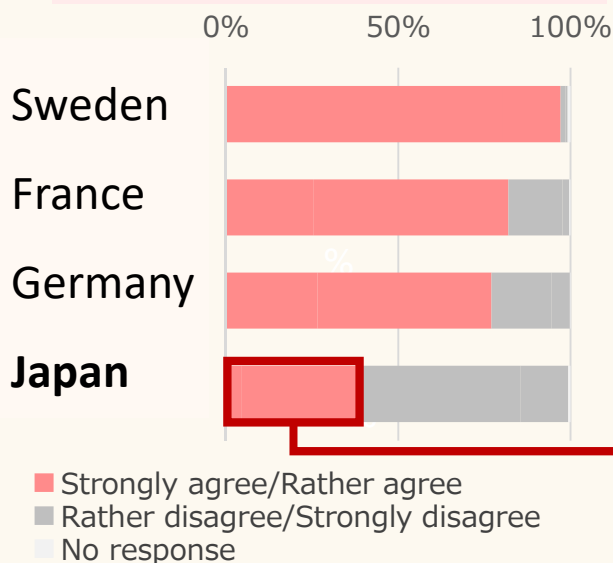


# Promotion of Children's Smile Movement

In collaboration with various companies and organizations, encouraging spirit toward "society that cherishes children"

There are few people who **feel gentleness and understanding by society for child rearing**

The ratio of people who think that their countries are "comfortable places to give birth and raise children"



The reason people think that their countries are "comfortable places to give birth and raise children"

Public security in the local community	52.0%
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Enhancement of medical care for mothers/children from the period of pregnancy to childbirth	46.1%
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Support and reduction of educational expenses	39.0%
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⋮

⋮

Feeling gentleness and understanding by the entire society for child rearing	<b>8.6%</b>
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(Material) Prepared based on "FY 2020 Report on International Awareness Survey on Society with a Declining Birthrate" by Cabinet Office

## Direction of strengthening policies

- **Accelerating movement by enhancing information transmission**
- **Supporting action by companies and organizations**
- **Expanding opportunities for participation and the ones for experience of children**



# Further Increasing “Children’s Smile Movement”

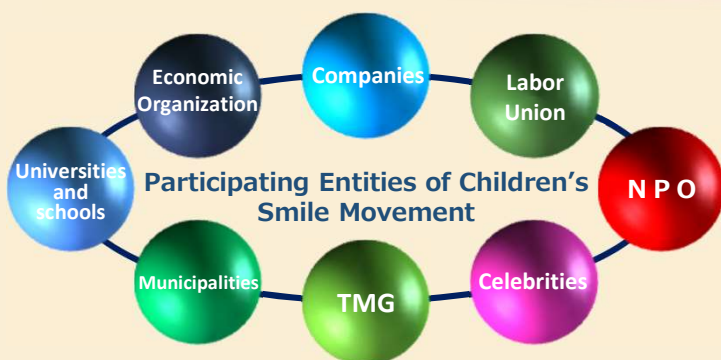
- ✓ The celebrities who play active roles in the front line of various fields widely transmit the concepts and messages

## Ambassadors of “Children’s Smile Movement”



Ambassadors earnestly answering questions from child reporters

- ✓ Supporting the actions “to cherish children” by companies and organization that participate in Children’s Smile Movement



Giving awards to companies and organizations conducting innovative activities



Creation of opportunities for experience of various children by holding exchange meetings

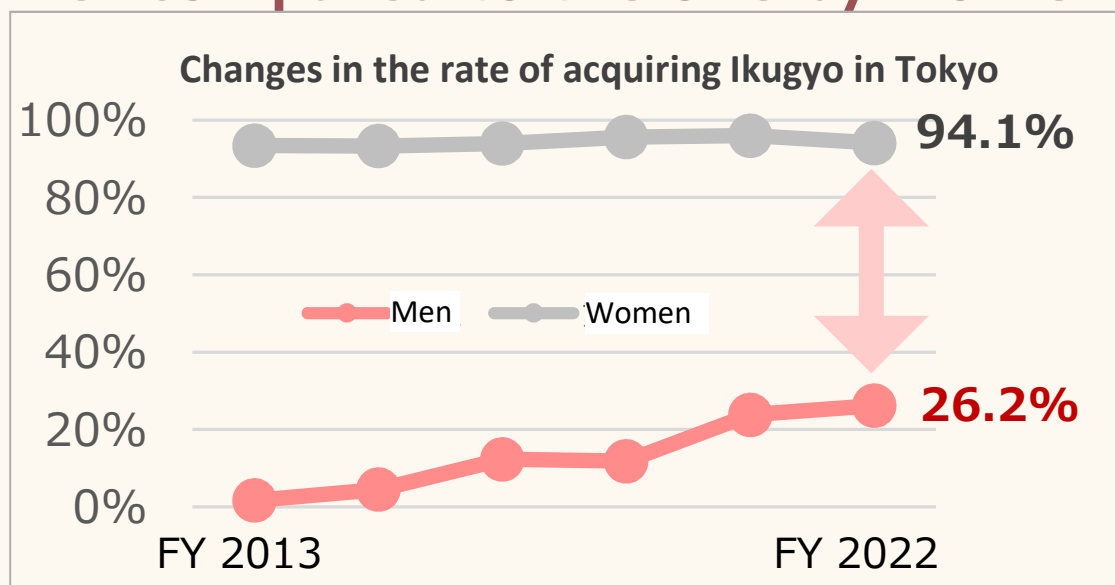
**1,570 organizations participating**  
(as of January of 2024)

# Promotion of “Ikugyo” \*

\* meaning childcare leave

Child rearing means not “holidays”  
but “important work to foster future”  
It is not “Ikukyu” but “Ikugyo”

The rate of acquiring Ikugyo by men is far lower compared to the one by women



(Material) Prepared based on “FY 2022 Report on Survey Results for Gender Equal Participation of Tokyo Metropolitan” by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Bureau of Industrial and Labour Affairs

## Direction of strengthening policies

Encouraging spirit in the entire society to take “Ikugyo” more easily

Information transmission based on evidence



Promoting initiatives for Ikugyo by men

Approach for large companies concentrated in Tokyo

Balancing child rearing and work

# Change of Mindset in the Entire Society



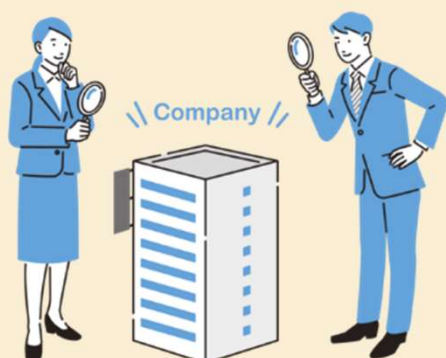
- Disseminating the idea of “Ikugyo” by movie etc.

## New Approach toward improvement of atmosphere in workplace

- Supporting initiatives for companies that pay support allowance to “co-workers of the persons who engage in Ikugyo”



## Transmitting information based on evidence

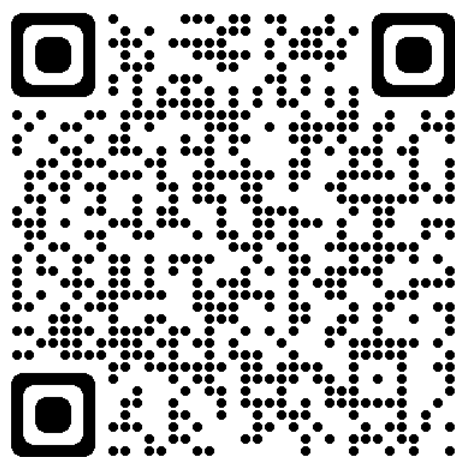


- Surveying and publicizing to what degree the students in the middle of job hunting prioritize “Ikugyo”.





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