

駒沢女子短期大学附属幼稚園における「英語のお遊びの時間」 に関するアンケート調査結果 (3)

金 澤 延 美

The Report of the Results of the Survey on “Fun Time in English” at the Kindergarten Affiliated to Komazawa Women’s Junior College (3)

Nobumi KANAZAWA

I. Introduction

This is the writer’s third and the last report on the results of the survey on “Fun Time in English” at the Kindergarten affiliated to Komazawa Women’s Junior College. The writer conducted the program for 3 years from May 1998 to March 2000 and surveyed the program by using questionnaires given to the parents of the children in the program. The questionnaires were given three times during the entire period. The first and the second questionnaires were given to attain information for the following term or year program. The third one was given at the end of my time conducting the program to make comparison between the results of 3 sets of data and to evaluate the program.

The same questionnaires were given for the comparison but for the last one more space was provided after each question for any comments related to the program.

III. Results and Analysis

Table 1a In general, what do you think of introducing English into kindergartens?

DATE: March, 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Agree	94.4 (36)	(32)	(33)
Disagree	(2)	(2)	0
Undecided			
Don’t know			

II. Implementation

. Survey conducted March 2001.

Subjects are the parents of children who go to the kindergarten affiliated to Komazawa Gakuen

. 87 parents surveyed

Mothers: 105

Fathers: 0

. Age of those surveyed:

Parents in their	20’s ...	3
	30’s ...	87
	40’s ...	15
	50’s ...	0

. Children whose parents were surveyed:

Girls:	49
Boys:	56
Grades:	Nencho 38
	Nencyu 34
	Nensho 33

Table 1b In general, what do you think of introducing English into kindergartens ?

DATE : March, 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Agree	75.0 (24)	72.4 (21)	88.46(23)
Disagree	3.13(1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Undecided	18.75(6)	20.69(6)	11.54(3)
Don't know	3.13(1)	6.9 (2)	0 (0)

Table 1c In general, what do you think of introducing English into kindergartens ?

DATE : July, 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Agree	82.4 (28)	68.8 (22)	83.3 (23)
Disagree	0 (0)	3.1 (1)	5.6 (2)
Undecided	11.8 (4)	18.8 (6)	11.1 (4)
Don't know	5.9 (2)	9.4 (3)	0 (0)

The percentage of all the three grade's parents agreed on introducing English into kindergarten is much higher than the results of previous ones. Though 2 out of 36 parents of Nencho and 2 out of 32 parents of Nenchu disagreed none of parents

answered "Undecided" or "Don't know". This result shows that the game and activity oriented program conducted in English has been rooted and been spread out among the parents in all grades.

Table 2a Please choose your reason for approving.

DATE : March, 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
To familiarize with sense of Internationalization from childhood	10.5 (4)	14.7 (5)	15.2 (5)
Earlier is better to learn foreign languages effectively	41.1 (16)	35.3 (12)	42.4 (14)
Desire my child to learn English before its introduction in primary school	13.1 (5)	(2)	(2)
It would be advantageous for a child in the future	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
My child is interested in English	28.9 (11)	29.4 (10)	21.2 (7)
Others	(2)	(5)	(5)

Table 2b

DATE : March, 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
To familiarize with sense of Internationalization from childhood	28.13(9)	20.69(6)	26.92(7)
Earlier is better to learn foreign languages effectively	43.75(14)	44.83(13)	38.46(10)
Desire my child to learn English before its introduction in primary school	15.63(5)	6.90(2)	3.85(1)
It would be advantageous for a child in the future	3.13(1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
My child is interested in English	43.75(14)	34.48(10)	46.15(12)
Others	3.13(1)	0 (0)	7.69(2)

Table 2c Please choose your reason for approving.

DATE : July, 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
To familiarize with sense of Internationalization from childhood	35.13(12)	34.4 (11)	25.0 (9)
Earlier is better to learn foreign languages effectively	52.9 (18)	43.8 (14)	19.4 (7)
Desire my child to learn English before its introduction in primary school	2.9 (1)	0 (0)	5.6 (0)
It would be advantageous for a child in the future	5.9 (2)	3.1 (1)	0 (0)
My child is interested in English	14.7 (5)	21.9 (7)	22.2 (8)
Others	2.9 (1)	6.3 (2)	13.9 (5)

The significant change is seen in the choice of "to familiarize with a sense of internationalization from childhood" for three years. The percentage of the choice has been decreased. In the second survey of the parents in Nencho and Nenchu classes marked more than one for this question, the figure came out inaccurate for the comparison with the other two, it is not appropriate to compare the results in details. However at least the latest and the second results of the

survey show the similar tendency of the parents choice; that is the percentage of the parents who chose "Earlier is better to learn foreign languages effectively" and " My child is interested in English" was the most significant of all the reasons except for Nencho in the latest survey.

A significant increase in the choice of "My child is interested in English" was seen between the result of the first survey and the second and the third one.

Table 3a What is your reason you oppose teaching English at kindergartens?

DATE : March, 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
There's a fear of making children come to dislike English	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It would increase children's study load	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It would interfere with learning accurate Japasese	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It's unnatural to select English as a foreign language	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
There's no need of teaching English to every child	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Others	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 3b What is your reason you oppose teaching English at kindergartens?

DATE : March, 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
There's a fear of making children come to dislike English	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It would increase children's study load	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It would interfere with learning accurate Japasese	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It's unnatural to select English as a foreign language	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
There's no need of teaching English to every child	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Others	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 3c What is your reason you oppose teaching English at kindergartens?

DATE : July, 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
There's a fear of making children come to dislike English	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
It would increase children's study load	0 (0)	0 (0)	2.8 (1)
It would interfere with learning accurate Japasese	0 (0)	3.1 (1)	2.8 (1)
It's unnatural to select English as a foreign language	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
There's no need of teaching English to every child	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Others	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Since there were only two responses of opposition, there is not enough to draw a conclusion from. The comment from one of them is as follows.

“I worry that the earlier introduction of English

to children may make some children dislike English before the official introduction in the 7th grade.” “There are so many other languages in the world. Why English to every child ?”

Table 4a How does your child like “Fun Time In English” at Komazawa kindergarten?

DATE of Survey : July, 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Seems to enjoy it	94.7 (36)	100.00(34)	100.00(33)
Seems not to enjoy it	5.3 (2)	0	0
Uninformed yet	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0
No answers	0	0	0

Table 4b How does your child like “Fun Time In English” at Komazawa kindergarten?

DATE of Survey : July, 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Seems to enjoy it	81.25(26)	75.96(22)	73.08(19)
Seems not to enjoy it	0	0 (0)	0 (0)
Uninformed yet	0	10.34(3)	26.92(7)
Others	0	(2)	0 (0)
No answers	0	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 4c How does your child like “Fun Time In English” at Komazawa kindergarten?

DATE of Survey : July, 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Seems to enjoy it	79.4 (27)	46.9 (15)	22.2 (8)
Seems not to enjoy it	2.9 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Uninformed yet	14.7 (5)	31.3 (10)	25.0 (9)
Others	2.9 (1)	3.1 (1)	0 (0)
No answers	0 (0)	15.6 (5)	0 (0)

The latest results of "Fun Time in English" shows all children at every level enjoyed it except two in the Nencho class. By the time the first survey was conducted that was two months after the program had started, Nencho had five lessons for 20 to 25 minutes each, Nenchu had two lessons of 15 minutes each and Nensho only had one lesson for 10 minutes. Therefore it seems that is the reason why there were many choice of "uninformed yet" or "No answers" among the parents of the youngest children. The number of such choice of "Uninformed yet" and "No answers" has decreased as years passed by. The parents seem to have learned about the "Fun Time in English" at the kindergarten through the promotion video for recruiting new children to enter or class observations on the parents' day. Besides, since the latest survey was given at the end of the academic year, the Nensho children had five lessons, which means four more lessons for the Nensho children in the first survey, by the time the questionnaires were given.

Even though the tendency of the children in every level favors the English program seen from

the results of the three surveys, it is worth notice that all the children in every level except two seems to enjoy "Fun Time in English".

According to the comments of the latest survey, the parents figure that their children enjoy or seem to enjoy the "Fun Time in English" with the following reasons.

- * My child often sings some songs in English very joyfully.
- * My child teaches me a new English song whenever she learns one.
- * When I sing some English songs which my child learned at the kindergarten with her, sometimes she corrects my pronunciation.
- * When we went to a restaurant a foreign waiter came and said "Hello." to us. My son answered "I'm fine thank you, and you?" and the waiter praised him very much. My son looked very happy and added in Japanese, "I like English".
- * When we say "Hello, how are you?" to my child for fun, she answers happily "I'm fine thank you." with good pronunciation.

Table 5a What kind of activities do you think are appropriate for "Fun Time in English"?
DATE: March 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sing in English	63.16(24)	76.47(26)	75.76(25)
Play games in English	92.11(35)	70.59(24)	60.60(20)
Greet in English	86.84(33)	76.47(26)	75.76(25)
Act in an English drama/play	7.89(3)	5.88(2)	6.6 (2)
Listen to English picture books	13.16(5)	20.59(7)	12.12(4)
Learn to read Alphabet	15.79(6)	11.76(4)	18.18(6)
Learn to write Alphabet	2.63 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Read and write names of familiar animals, etc.	44.74(17)	41.83(14)	69.70(23)
Others	2.63(1)	5.88(2)	3.03(1)

Table 5b What kind of activities do you think are appropriate for “Fun Time in English”?

DATE: March 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sing in English	84.38(27)	89.66(26)	88.46(23)
Play games in English	87.50(28)	62.0 (18)	57.70(15)
Greet in English	75.0 (24)	62.0 (18)	76.92(20)
Act in an English drama/play	3.13(1)	10.34(3)	0 (0)
Listen to English picture books	25.0 (8)	17.24(5)	26.92(7)
Learn to read Alphabet	21.88(7)	17.24(5)	11.54(3)
Learn to write Alphabet	9.38(3)	10.34(3)	0 (0)
Read and write names of familiar animals, etc.	21.88(7)	41.38(12)	30.77(8)
Others	0 (0)	0 (0)	(0)

Table 5c What kind of activities do you think are appropriate for “Fun Time in English”?

DATE: July 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sing in English	61.8 (21)	90.6 (29)	75.0 (27)
Play games in English	79.4 (27)	59.4 (19)	41.7 (15)
Greet in English	76.5 (26)	56.3 (18)	72.2 (26)
Act in an English drama/play	8.8 (3)	9.4 (3)	0 (0)
Listen to English picture books	8.8 (3)	12.5 (4)	8.3 (3)
Learn to read Alphabet	17.6 (6)	6.3 (2)	8.3 (3)
Learn to write Alphabet	2.9 (1)	6.3 (2)	0 (0)
Read and write names of familiar animals, etc.	32.4 (11)	28.1 (9)	50.0 (18)
Others	0 (0)	0 (0)	5.6 (2)

The result of the latest survey shows that parents of *Nencho* and *Nencyu* children have chosen “Sing songs in English” “Play games in English” “Greet in English” as three most desired activities, while the parents of *Nensho* children “Sing in English” and “Greet in English” came first and

the second but “Read and write names of familiar animals, etc.” was chosen for the third. The tendency of the highly chosen activities has not been changed since the first survey. However, it is worth noticing the change in one of the lower chosen activities.

Table 6a Do you have your child study English at home?

DATE : March 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
No	94.74(36)	67.65(23)	69.70(23)
Yes	5.26(2)	32.35(11)	30.30(10)

Table 6b Do you have your child study English at home?

DATE : March 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
No	78.13(25)	82.76(24)	96.15(25)
Yes	21.88(7)	17.24(5)	3.85(1)

Table 6c Do you have your child study English at home?

DATE : July 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
No	76.5 (26)	84.4 (27)	77.8 (28)
Yes	23.5 (8)	15.6 (5)	22.2 (8)

The latest result shows the percentage of “Not in particular” is twice as high as “Yes” through all three levels except Nencho. Among the three,

the percentage of Nencho children who are learning English is the least, even though it was the highest in the second survey.

Table 7a Those who answered “Yes” to the previous question, please mark the means of learning English.

DATE : March 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Attend English conversation school	5.26(2)	11.76(4)	21.21(7)
Hire tutor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Family teach(es) English at home	2.63(1)	11.76(4)	15.15(5)
Watch English programs on TV	5.26(2)	17.64(6)	12.12(4)
Provide other means	0 (0)	0 (0)	3.03(1)

Table 7b Those who answered “Yes” to the previous question, please mark the means of learning English.

DATE : March 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Attend English conversation school	12.5 (4)	6.90(2)	0 (0)
Hire tutor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Family teach(es) English at home	6.25(2)	3.45(1)	3.85(1)
Watch English programs on TV	15.63(5)	6.90(2)	3.85(1)
Provide other means	3.13(1)	3.45(1)	0 (0)

Table 7c Those who answered “Yes” to the previous question, please mark the means of learning English.

DATE : July 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Attend English conversation school	19.2 (5)	7.4 (2)	0 (0)
Hire tutor	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Family teach(es) English at home	6.7 (2)	3.7 (1)	7.1 (2)
Watch English programs on TV	15.4 (4)	18.5 (5)	17.9 (5)
Provide other means	7.7 (2)	7.4 (2)	14.3 (4)

Though the first and the second results show not many children go to “juku” type of English language schools, the latest result shows more children attend Juku classes than the other two results.

None of the Nencho children went to juku in the first and the third survey, however seven out of

ten children who study some English at home attend in the latest survey. The other two choices of the means of having study the children at home are “Family teach(es) English at home” and “Watch English programs on TV”, which is shared with every level in the three surveys.

Table 8a Which English programs for young children does your child watch?

DATE : March 2001

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sesame Street	26.32(10)	35.29(12)	39.39(13)
Eigo de Asoboh	94.74(36)	82.35(28)	96.97(32)
Ponkikies	5.26(2)	2.94(1)	0 (0)
Kids Club	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Table 8b Which English programs for young children does your child watch?

DATE : March 1999

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sesame Street	25.0 (8)	37.93(11)	26.92(7)
Eigo de Asoboh	84.38(27)	89.66(26)	92.31(24)
Ponkikies	31.25(10)	24.14(7)	38.46(10)
Kids Club	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No answers	0 (0)	3.45(1)	0 (0)

Table 8c Which English programs for young children does your child watch?

DATE : JULY 1998

Contents of the response	<i>Nencho</i>	<i>Nencyu</i>	<i>Nensho</i>
Sesame Street	26.5 (0)	37.5 (12)	36.1 (13)
Eigo de Asoboh	82.4 (28)	34.4 (27)	80.6 (29)
Ponkikies	32.4 (11)	3.1 (11)	38.9 (14)
Kids Club	2.9 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
No answers	0 (0)	0 (0)	8.3 (0)

The three results show that through all the classes the percentage of children who watch "Eigo de Asoboh" is the highest. The following comments were shared with the results from all three surveys.

1. The English version of "Pocket Monster" is popular among all the level children.
2. Children watch newly aired "Eigorian" which is originally designed for the third and the fourth graders of elementary school children as some aids for the optional English program in the "General Studies" starting from April 2002.

Conclusion

In this paper the writer reported the results and the analysis of a survey concerning the parents' opinions and the children's reactions to the "Fun time in English" program conducted from May

1998 to March 2001 at the kindergarten affiliated to Komazawa Women's Junior College.

According to the results of the latest survey, 94.4 % of the Nencho parents, 100 % of both Nencyu and Nensho parents supported the idea of teaching some English at kindergartens. This result shows the establishment of "Fun Time in English" was supported by the parents.

The following points were noted from the latest survey and an over all comparison of the three surveys.

1. About the "Fun Time in English"

The reaction of the children toward "Fun Time in English" was found as follows. Though 25.0 % of Nensho, 31.3 % of Nencyu, and 14.7 % of Nencyo children's parents answered "not informed yet" or did not know about the "Fun Time in English" in the first survey the percent-

age of such answers decreased in the second survey. The result of the latest survey shows that 100 % of Nensho and Nencyu children and 94.7 % of Nencyo children “seem to enjoy it”.

2. About the activities in “Fun Time in English”

The tendency of the highly chosen activities has not been changed for three years. That is that “Sing in English” “Play games in English” and “Greet in English”. The chosen activities are the ones which take a serious view of voice and sound. Among the activities “Listen to English picture book” had little attention and ranked as one of the bottom ones in the surveys. The writer believes in the effectiveness of using foreign picture books read in English to young children, so in every class a picture book was read all through the year. However the result shows that this activity did not attract the children as much as I had expected.

The results of the three surveys show that the parents expected their children to get instruction focused on “listening and speaking ” through “Fun Time in English”. Therefore the parents’ expectations match the actual activities which focused on listening and speaking. The content of the activities in “Fun Time in English” were supported.

3. About Jukus

The three results show that not very many children go to “juku” for their English. However it does not mean that the children were not interested in English. There were many comments seen, the parents have their children watch such TV programs as “ Eigo de Asoboh” or newly aired English program called “ Eigorian” for young Japanese English learners. Through this way, it is obvious that the children had some English contact daily through the media of TV. There was no significant change in this tendency among the three surveys.

The “Fun Time in English” program seems to have been successful. However only the questionnaires to the parents is not enough to conclude that the children enjoyed the program and gained some English through having “fun”. So the writer plans to analyse the class observation videos taken for three years and the each Nencho child’s interview in English at the end of the program of three years. The writer hopes to find out the scientific measurement of “fun” in English language program for young learners and evaluate the “Fun Time in English” program with the measurement further.

Note :

- 1) Katagiri, Taeko (1994) *On the Introduction of English Education into Public Elementary Schools : Comments from Elementary School Teachers in Aichi, Shizuoka, and Gifu Prefectures* 『日本児童英語教育学会研究紀要』第13号 p.113

References :

- Fujiwara, Kazuaki (1993), 「カリキュラム (幼稚園)」 『早期英語教育』中山兼芳 (編) (東京: ニチブン)
- 樋口忠彦他 (1990) 「学習開始年齢が言語習得に及ぼす影響—第I報」 『日本児童英語教育学会研究紀要』第9号
- Ito, Katutoshi and others (1995), *Neurolinguistic Basis for Child Nonprimary Language Acquisition*, 『日本児童英語教育学会研究紀要』第13号
- Larsen Freeman, D. & Long, M. H. (1991), *An Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Research*, London: Longman.

Appendix

A Questionnaire for the parents on early English education in general and the reaction of the children reported at home on “Fun Time in English”

About early English education in general

- 1 In general, what do you think of introducing

English into Kindergartens?

- a. Agree B. Disagree c. Un-
decided d. Don't know
2. Please choose your reason for approving.
- To familiarize with a sense of internationalization from childhood.
 - Earlier is better to learn foreign languages effectively.
 - Desire my child to learn English before its introduction in primary school.
 - It would be advantageous for a child in the future.
 - My child is interested in English.
3. What is your reason you oppose teaching English at kindergartens?
- There's a fear of making children come to dislike English.
 - It would increase children's study load.
 - It would interfere with learning accurate Japanese.
 - It's unnatural to select English as a foreign language.
 - There's no need of teaching English to every child/
 - Others

About "Fun time in English"

4. How does your child like "Fun Time In English" at Komazawa kindergarten?
- Seems to enjoy it.
 - Seems not to enjoy it.
 - Uninformed yet.
 - Others
 - No answers.
5. What kind of activities do you think are appropriate for "Fun Time in English"?
- Sing in English
 - Play games in English
 - Greet in English
 - Play a drama in English

- Listen to English Picture books
- Learn to read Alphabet
- Learn to write Alphabet
- Read and write names of familiar animals etc.
- No answers

About your attitude toward English education at home

6. Do you have your child study English at home?
- Yes b. No
7. Those who answered "Yes" to the previous question, please mark the means of learning English.
- Attend "English conversation school"
 - Hire tutor
 - Family teach(es) English at home
 - Watch English programs on TV
 - Provide other means
8. Which English programs for young children does your child watch?
- Sesame Street
 - Eigo de Asoboh
 - Ponkikies
 - Kids Club
 - No answers