

小学校外国語活動・外国語 学習指導要領 改訂の概要（英語版）

Elementary School Foreign Language Activities & Foreign Languages

-Course of Study: Outline of the Revision-

Grades and the Number of Lessons Per Year

Foreign Language Activities shifted from Grades 5 and 6 to Grades 3 and 4, and Foreign Languages was newly established in Grades 5 and 6. Lesson hours are as follows (in accordance with the revised ministerial ordinance of the Enforcement Regulations of School Education Law).

Foreign Language Activities: Grade 3 - 35 hours / Grade 4 - 35 hours

Foreign Languages: Grade 5 - 70 hours/ Grade 6 - 70 hours

The Course of Study does not clearly state the objectives for each grade. However, in preparing teaching plans, goals for each grade level are to be set, as well as the aims for achieving these goals in the duration of the two years of Grade 3 and 4 and Grade 5 and 6, respectively. Foreign Language Activities is not regarded as a subject and is treated as 'etc.' in *Subjects etc.*

The Framework

In *I. OVERALL OBJECTIVE*, it states that each subject must correspond to following the Three Pillars of Qualities and Abilities.

- (1) Knowledge and skills
- (2) Ability to think, to judge, to express oneself, etc.
- (3) Power to learn, character etc.

In *2. Contents*, it states that each subject be divided into two components, (1) and (2).

Four Skills to Five Areas and Reading and Writing Addition

In *II. OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS FOR EACH LANGUAGE* of *1. Objectives* in Grades 3 and 4, Speaking is divided into two areas of Interaction and Presentation. Accordingly, in *2. Contents* of Foreign Language Activities, areas to be fostered include only; Listening, Interaction, and Presentation. In the Foreign Languages, the areas to be fostered include

Reading and Writing as well.

Although the objectives in the CAN-DO format are set for all areas, Reading and Writing in Grades 5 and 6 should be taught so that students 'become familiar with' these two areas. Therefore, objectives are set to rudimentary levels compared to the other three areas taught from Grades 3 and 4.

Providing Language Materials in Grades 5 and 6

In (1) *Items Concerning English Features and Rules* of 2. *Contents [Knowledge and Skills]* section in Grades 5 and 6 are as follows:

- 1 Speech sounds
- 2 Letters and symbols
- 3 Words, collocations, and common expressions
- 4 Sentence and sentence structures

Among these four items, the number of words to be learned through Grades 3 to 6 is specified at 600 to 700 words.

As for the sentences, in addition to noticing the differences between Japanese and English word order, etc., it is noted that “*highly utilized and basic gerunds and past tense*” will be taught, which are currently taught in junior high school for the first time in the current Course of Study. These sentences and sentence structures are “*to be utilize through communication in meaningful contexts repeatedly.*”

In 3. LESSON PLAN DESIGN AND TREATMENT OF THE CONTENTS, two categories of words are stipulated: (a) “*words to understand when listening and reading*” (receptive vocabulary) and “*words to express oneself by speaking and writing*” (productive vocabulary). Additionally, noted is that written words should be linked to speech sounds while teaching.

Children’s Interests and Association with Other Subjects

In 3. LESSON PLAN DESIGN AND TREATMENT OF THE CONTENTS in Grades 3 and 4, it states that consideration should be given to children learning English for the first time, and it required teaching be conduct as an “*experiential subject*” which involves various interactive activities with classmates, etc. In Grades 5 and 6, teaching should include various learning formats, incorporating more pair and group work etc. appropriately.

In Grades 5 and 6, teachers should provide repeated instruction of learning material in Foreign Language Activities in Grade 3 and 4 for deeper understanding of the target language.

In all grades, content and activities should take into account students' interests and are expected to make use of what learning material in other subjects, as well as content connected to school events.

Curriculum Management

As stipulated in the GENERAL PROVISIONS, when incorporating short-term lessons, or modules, it is possible to include them in the annual classroom instructional hours as long as they are properly associated with the learning material and contents of regular 45-minute lesson and its learning material and contents etc. Furthermore, a system must be in place in which a deep understanding and meaningful utilization of short-term lessons, or modules is available.