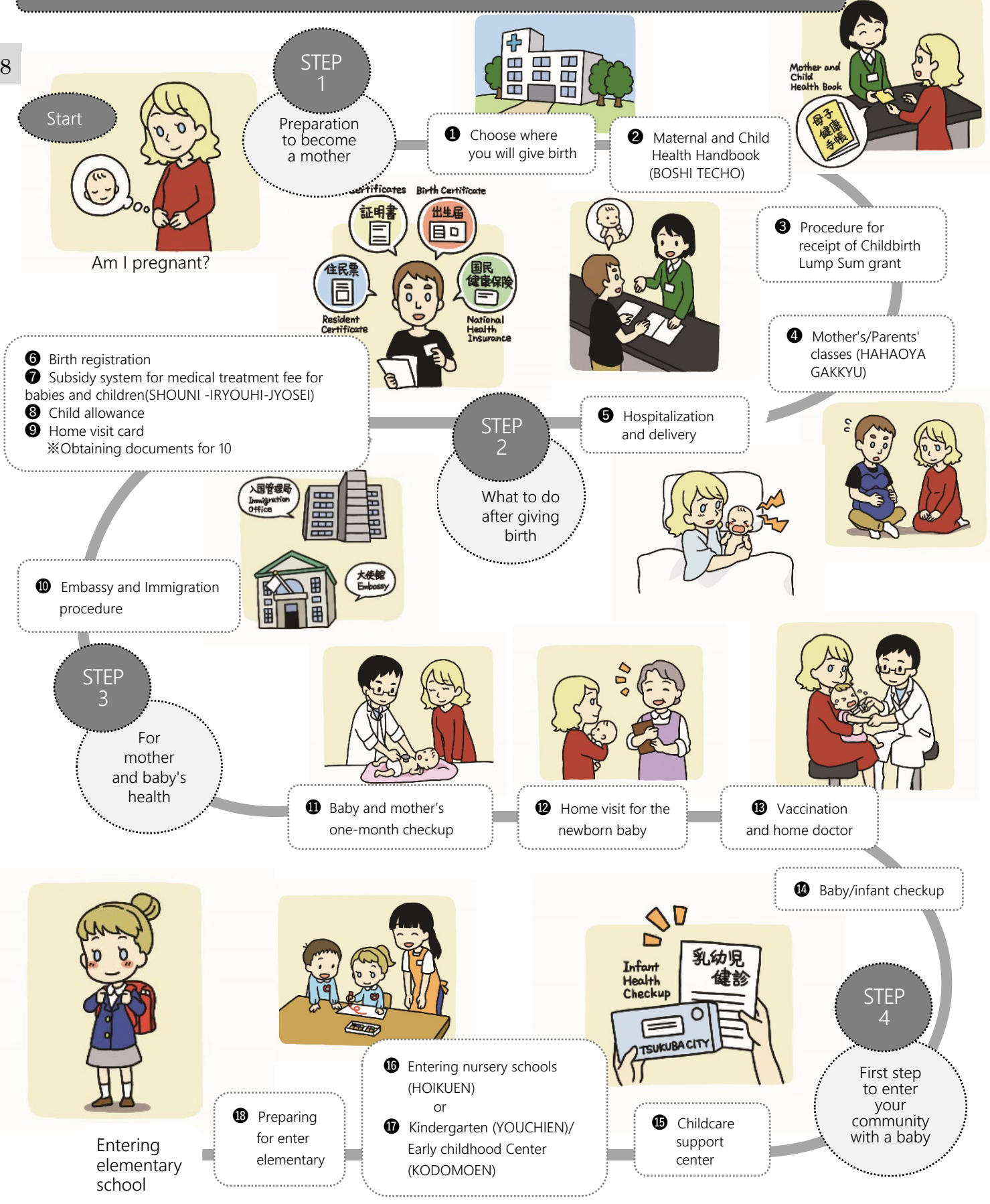


From October 2, 2023, the reception hours of Tsukuba City Hall and its branch offices will be changed from 8:45am to 4:30pm, for both callers and visitors.

# Childcare and Education Parenting Chart

Parenting chart for foreign residents from pregnancy to enrolling to elementary school.



## Maternal and Child Health

For information on maternal and child health, please refer to “Life Plan Sukoyaka” and Tsukuba City’s official website.

“Life Plan Sukoyaka” is a booklet which has information on various classes/learning opportunities about health, vaccinations, health checks, and health check schedules for maternal and child health, as well as adult health.

The booklet is available in English and Chinese and you can pick it up at Health Promotion Division of the City Hall, the City Hall’s branch offices, community centers and health centers.

## Childcare

### Tsukuba City Birth Center

In cooperation with Tsukuba University, Tsukuba City has set up an in-hospital maternity center where midwives play a central role in supporting expectant and nursing mothers in a community to give birth and raise their children. Please inquire at the maternity ward of Tsukuba University Hospital for details.

Location: Tsukuba University Hospital (Maternity Ward) 2-1-1 Amakubo Tsukuba ☎029-853-3878

Pregnancy Health Care For details, inquire at Health Promotion Division

### **Providing Mather and Child Health Handbook:**

When you find out that you are pregnant, please notify Health Promotion Division or Health Center of your pregnancy and pick up “Mother and Child Health Handbook (*Boshi Kenko Techo* 母子健康手帳)”. In the Handbook, you can keep record of your pregnancy, giving birth and your baby’s growth and development and also, the Handbook has various information on childcare and child development.

### **Health checkups for pregnant and nursing mothers:**

Partial subsidy is provided for health checkups for pregnant and nursing mothers. Please take a checkup coupon with you to an affiliated clinic in Ibaraki Prefecture when you have a checkup. If you are having a checkup at a clinic outside the Prefecture, please submit “Application for maternity and nursing mothers’ health checkup coupons which can be used outside the Prefecture” 2 weeks prior to the checkup.

### **“Maternity Salon”:**

“Maternity Salon” is a class for women who are pregnant for the first time and their families to learn about pregnancy, giving birth and childcare so that they can prepare better for their baby’s arrival.

Support for Giving Birth For details, inquire at National Health Insurance Division

**-Childbirth Lump-Sum Allowance:** This is a scheme to provide partial financial support for giving birth.

Who is eligible?	Persons who are enrolled in their company’s insurance or National Health Insurance.
Amount of allowance	420,000 JPY or 404,000 JPY (if you give birth outside of Japan)
Where to apply	A medical facility where you are going to deliver your baby.

**-Maternity Allowance:** This is a paid parental leave.

Who is eligible?	Persons who are enrolled in their company's insurance. (Dependents are not entitled.)
Amount of allowance	The amount is calculated based on the insured person's salary, so the allowance amount is not the same for everyone. In principle, you will be able to receive the allowance for 98 days.
Where to apply	At your company (You are not entitled to receive the allowance, if you are enrolled in National Health Insurance.)

**Regarding Allowances for Supporting Childcare**, inquire at Childcare Policy Division

**-Childcare Allowance (*Jido Teate* 児童手当):** This allowance is for parents/guardians whose children have not completed junior high school.

Who is eligible?	Parent/Guardian who has a child under 15 years old (by March 31 after he/she turns 15 years old) and is living in Japan
Amount of allowance (per month)	15,000 JPY per child under 3 years old 10,000 JPY per child from 3 years old to the age before completing elementary school education (From the third child, 15,000 JPY per child) 10,000 per junior high school child <u>If the income of one of parents/guardians exceeds a certain amount, the household will be regarded as household with excess income, and the amount of the allowance will be 5,000 yen per child.</u>
Payment Schedule	Three times a year (June 10, October 10 and February 10) If a payment date falls on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, the payment will be made on a weekday immediately prior to the day.
Application	When to apply: Within 15 days after giving birth or moving to Tsukuba City. If you fail to apply within 15 days, you will not be able to receive the allowance for the first month or more depending on how late you are. What to bring: Passports, residence cards and My Number cards of all household members <u>Please note that you are required to report your latest status in June every year by submitting "Latest Status Report (<i>genkyo todoke</i> 現況届)" provided by the City Hall by post.</u>
Where to apply	Childcare Policy Division

**-Child Rearing Allowance (*Jido Fuyo Teate* 児童扶養手当):** This allowance is mainly for single parent households.

Who is eligible?	A father, mother or guardian of a single-parent-household who is looking after a child under 18 years old. (The allowance will be paid until March 31 after the child's 18-year-old birthday. If the child has a disability, the allowance will be provided until he/she turns 20-year-old.) N.B. You are not entitled to receive the allowance if you are in a de facto relationship.
Amount of allowance (per month)	The allowance amount is subject to change depending on the salary. N.B. If you become a single parent by divorce, you are required to submit a divorce certificate, your child's birth certificate or other certificate from your country indicating that you are divorced. (You are required to submit the translation of such documents.)
Payment Schedule	Six times a year (May 11, July 11, Sep 11, Nov 11, Jan 11 and Mar 11)

	If a payment date falls on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays, the payment will be made on a weekday immediately prior to the day.
Where to apply	Childcare Policy Division

**-Child Welfare Benefit for Single-Parent Family (*Hitori Oya Katei-to Jido Fukushi-kin* ひとり親家庭等児童福祉金)**

Who is eligible?	A father, mother, or guardian of a single-parent family who is looking after his/her child (until March 31 after the child turns 15-year-old) on his/her own due to death, divorce or disability of his/her spouse.
Amount of allowance (per month)	2,500 JPY per child 5,000 JPY per child for household entitled to "Child Rearing Allowance"
Payment Schedule	Once a year (end of March)
Where to apply	Childcare Policy Division

**Health Care for Infants and Toddlers**

For details, inquire at Health Promotion Division

**-Providing coupons for health checkups and vaccinations**

After giving birth, you will receive coupons for your baby's health checkups and vaccinations via post. With coupons, you are able to take your baby to health checkups when he/she is between 3 and 7 months and when he/she is between 9 months and 12 months at an affiliated clinic in the Prefecture for free of charge. Please inquire if you wish to have checkups outside the Prefecture.

- Health checkup and dental checkup for one and a half-year-old infant: A checkup coupon will be sent to you via post one month before your baby's checkup and you can use the coupon until he/she turns 2-year-old.
- Three-year-old health checkup: A checkup coupon will be sent to you via post one month before the checkup and you can use it until he/she turns 4-year-old. Please refer to the booklet "Life Plan Sukoyaka" for details and schedule of vaccination.

**-Home Visit Services (*Akachan Homon* 赤ちゃん訪問)**

Health nurses, midwives and nurses are available to visit your home and check your baby's development and growth. If you have any concerns about your baby, you can talk to them. If you wish to use the service, please provide the health service registration card inside your Mother and Child Health Handbook to Health Promotion Division or Health Center.

**-Local Childcare Support Centers** For details, inquire at Childcare Policy Division

Local Childcare Support Centers provide spaces for parents to meet and talk to each other about parenting and consult with staff about their children. Lectures and events on parenting will be also held at these centers. Children aged 0 to 6 (before starting elementary school) and their parents can use the centers for free of charge.

Name of Centers	Address	Phone	Open hours (Closed on Sundays, national holidays and between Dec 29 and Jan 3)	
			Open hours	Consultation
Tsukuba City General Childcare Support Center	Ryuseidai 61-1	029(857)9037	Mon. to Sat. 9:00-:00	Mon. to Sat. 8:30-17:00
Katsuragi Club	Nishi-Ohashi 457-2 (Located in Katsuragi Daycare Center)	080(8740)1988	Mon. to Fri. 9:15-15:15	Mon. to Fri. 9:00-16:00
Cherry Club	Ueno 1302 (Located in Sakura Gakuen Daycare Center)	029(863)0054	Mon. to Fri. 9:30-12:00, 13:00-15:30	
Ohisama Club Temporary closed as of February, 2021	Takasaki 643-9 (Located in Minori Kindergarten)	029(830)7455	Mon. to Fri. 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00	
Mama Tone Tsudoi no Hiroba	Tateno 604-3	029(838)5080	Mon. to Fri. 9:30-14:30	
Kodomo no Mori Hiroba	Numazaki 3097-1 (Located in Tsukuba Kodomo no Mori Daycare Center)	029(875)4539	Mon. to Fri. 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:30	
Suginoko Club	Shimo-kawarazaki 4-208 (Located in Shimana Suginoko Daycare Center)	029(847)6185	Mon. to Fri. 9:30-15:30	
Otonari	Midorino 1-28-3 (Located in the Annex of Wakaba Daycare Center)	029(895)2970	Mon. to Fri. 9:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00	
Nanairo Club	Sasagi 961-1 (Located in Niji-iro Daycare Center)	029(893)4602	Mon. to Fri. 9:00-12:00, 13:30-16:00	

**-Tsukuba Childcare Support Services** For details, inquire at Tsukuba Family Support Center (Inside Tsukuba City Council of Social Welfare) **029 (879) 5504**

This is a membership organization for persons who wish to provide childcare support and persons who wish to use the support. Anyone who is resident of the City can be a member, but in principle, you must be either pregnant or have pre-school aged child to use the service. You can be a member any time. The support services include childcare, pickup and drop off services and housework services.

**- "Kizuna", Temporary Childcare Support Center ☎070-1457-6062**

If it is difficult to look after your child at home for unavoidable reasons such as injury, disaster, accident, giving birth, looking after your parents, funeral, wedding and shopping, "Kizuna" will look after your child temporarily. Please inquire about the application details and fees.

-Children between 1-year-old and pre-school age living in the City who are weaned and do not have problems being looked after by someone other than parents.

-Service hours: From 9am to 5pm, Monday to Wednesday and Friday to Sunday (Excluding the year-end and New Year holidays)

-Address: 1-2-2 Daimachi (Second Floor of Yatabe Senior Citizens Welfare Center)

**-Childcare Services for Children Who Are Ill or Have Just Recovered from Illness** For details, inquire at Childcare Institution Management Division

**-Childcare services for ill children:** The daycare centers in the table below take care of preschool-aged children who are ill. The child must live in Tsukuba City and are not yet in the recovery stage from the illness, but unlikely to undergo a sudden change in physical condition for the time being, and whose parents/guardians cannot take care of him/her at home due to work, illness, injury, accident, birth, wedding, funeral, or other reasons. Please inquire at the daycare center for details.

Name of Daycare Center	Address	Phone	Capacity	Service hours
Gakuen Mirai Daycare Center	Shima 307	029-893-2807	4 children	Mon. to Fri. 8 : 00~17 : 30
Tsukuba Swan Daycare Center	Nishi-ōi 1733-34	029-870-3371	3 children	Mon. to Fri. 8 : 00~18 : 00
Sakura Gakuen Daycare Center	Ueno 1302	029-863-0053	4 children	Mon. to Fri. 8 : 00~17 : 30
Tsukuba Smile Daycare Center	Midorino 2-17-1	080-9657-0779	4 children	Mon. to Fri. 8 : 00~17 : 00

## Medical System

**-Childcare services for children who have just recovered from illness:**

The daycare center below takes care of preschool-aged children living in Tsukuba City who have difficulty in adjusting to group childcare environment because they are in the recovery stage from the illness, and whose parents/guardians cannot take care of them at home due to work, illness, injury, accident, birth, wedding, funeral, or other reasons. Please inquire at the daycare center for details.

Name of Daycare Center	Address	Phone	Capacity	Service hours
Tsukuba Kirari Daycare Center	Omonoi 32-1	029-846-7066	3 children	Mon. to Fri. 8 : 00~17 : 00

**-Medical Welfare Benefit Payment System (*Marufuku*)** For details, inquire at Medical Welfare and Pension Division

*Marufuku* is a system where a partial subsidy for out-of-pocket medical expenses is provided for the following persons indicated in the table. The subsidy is offered for healthcare services covered by health insurance only. There may be cases where you are not considered eligible because *Marufuku* has income restrictions. If you have just moved to Tsukuba City, you may be required to show your passport for *Marufuku* application.

Expectant and nursing mothers	Medical expenses for obstetrics and gynecology are covered by <i>Marufuku</i> from the time you receive a Maternal and Child Health Handbook to the following month after giving birth.
Children	Medical expenses for children from birth to age 18 (until March 31 after the child's 18-years-old birthday) are covered by <i>Marufuku</i> . (For high school pupils, <i>Marufuku</i> only covers hospitalization cost.)
Single-parent families	Medical expenses for single-parents and their children (under 18-year-old) are covered by <i>Marufuku</i> .
Persons with severe physical or mental disabilities	Medical expenses for persons with grade 1 or 2 Physical Disability Certificate or persons with an IQ score below 35 are covered by <i>Marufuku</i> .
Where to apply	Medical Welfare and Pension Division

What to bring:

1. Health insurance card
2. Personal stamp (*Inkan*)
3. If you have just moved to Tsukuba City, you may be required to bring your passport. Please inquire at the Division for details.
4. If you are a single-parent, please bring a Certificate of Child-rearing Allowance or notice of approval for Child Welfare Benefit.
5. If you are an expectant or nursing mother, please bring your Maternal and Child Health Handbook.
6. If you have a severe physical or mental disability, please bring a Physical Disability Certificate, Disability Pension Certificate or Special Child Rearing Allowance Certificate.
7. Document that clearly indicates your individual number (My Number).
8. Document that clearly indicates your bank account number such as your bank book.
9. Agreement

### Social Welfare System for Persons with Disability

**-For Physical Disability Certificate, Rehabilitation Certificate and Mental Disability Certificate, inquire at Disability Services Division**

These certificates are required for persons with physical disabilities, mental disabilities or mental illness to use various services.

**-For Special Child Rearing Allowance, inquire at Disability Services Division**

This allowance is for persons who live in Japan and are taking care of children under 20-year-old with mental or physical disability. You will be required to show the certificate of the disabled person when you apply for the allowance. There may be cases where you are not considered eligible, because there are income restrictions.

**-Regarding services for children and adults with physical, intellectual and mental disability, inquire at Disability Services Division**

1. Please visit Disability Services Division first.
2. Then go to a medical institution where a doctor will diagnose whether you have a disability and the severity of disability. Based on the diagnosis, the Division will issue a certificate for welfare services.

- 3. With the certificate, there are support for children with disability to go to centers for disabled children, and for adults with disability to work and/or go to centers for persons with disability, etc.

**Adult Health**

**Health Checkup**

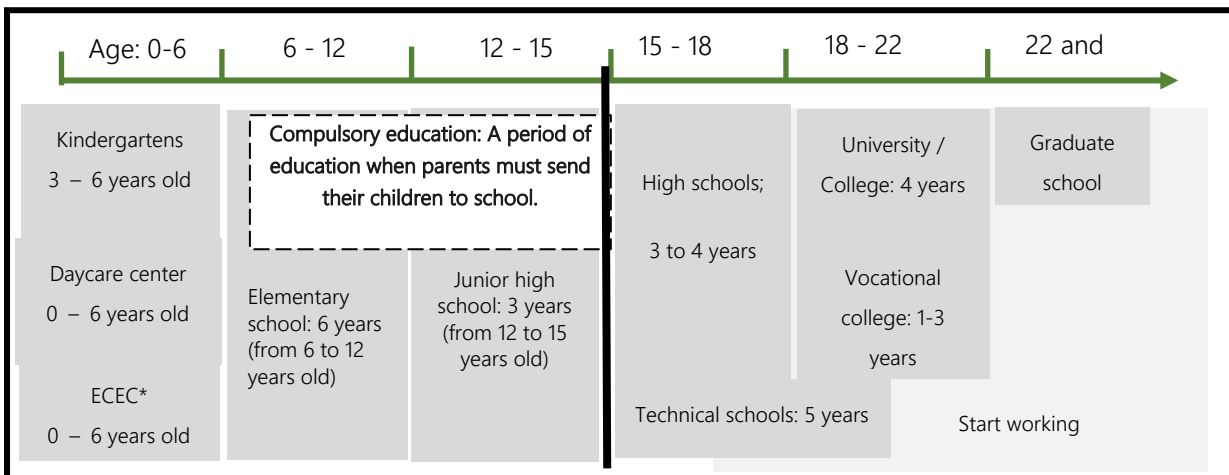
Take health checkup and understand your health status to start a healthy lifestyle.

Tsukuba City holds various health checks regularly. Please refer to a booklet "Life Plan Sukoyaka" or City's official website for details.

**Education**

**For Education and Childcare Systems, inquire at School Affairs Division**

Under School Education Law in Japan, the first 9 years of general education (6 years of primary and 3 years of lower secondary education) are compulsory. The law does not apply to non-Japanese nationals. Please inquire School Affairs Division at Education Bureau if you live in Tsukuba City and wish to send your child to a Japanese school.



\*ECEC: Certified Centers for Early Childhood Education and Care

**-For preschool education and childcare, inquire at Child Institution Management Division**

Childcare facility	Feature	Child's age	Where to apply
Kindergarten ( <i>Yochien</i> 幼稚園)	Kindertagens provide early childhood education where parents/guardians can send their child regardless of working or not.	From 3 to 5 years old (Until your child turns 6 years old)	At a preferred kindergarten
Daycare Center ( <i>Hoikuen</i> 保育園)	Daycare centers provide childcare services for parents/guardians who cannot look after their child at home.	From 0 to 5 years old (Until your child turns 6 years old)	Childcare Institutions Management Division at Tsukuba City Hall
ECEC ( <i>Nintei</i> <i>Kodomo-en</i> )	ECECs are facilities which has both functions as kindertagens and daycare centers.	From 0 to 5 years old (Until your child turns 6 years old)	-For kindergarten function, apply at an ECEC.



認定こども園)			-For daycare center functions, apply at Childcare Institutions Management Division in Tsukuba City Hall.
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-Depending on the childcare facilities, they accept children of different ages.

-If you wish to send your child to a daycare center from April, please apply at Childcare Institutions Management Division between the end of October and beginning of November of the previous year.

-If you wish to send your child to a public kindergarten, please apply at the kindergarten you wish to send your child in the autumn (around October) of the previous year.

**-Early Childhood Education is free of charge:** For details, inquire at Childcare Institutions Management Division

For children who are in 3 to 5-year-old classes at a kindergarten, daycare center and ECEC, the childcare fee will be free of charge. Also, childcare fee will be free of charge for children aged 0 to 2, if their family is exempted from municipal tax. There may be cases where childcare fees for daycare centers certified by the government becomes free of charge. Please refer to the website below for details.

Multilingual

[https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/\\_res/projects/default\\_project/\\_page\\_/001/007/926/gaidobukkuenglish.pdf](https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/_res/projects/default_project/_page_/001/007/926/gaidobukkuenglish.pdf)

**-For School Education, inquire at School Affairs Division**

Schools	Age	Where to apply	Who decides which school to go to? (For public schools)	Entrance exam (for public school)
Elementary school	6 to 12 years old (From the year your child turns 7 years old)	School Affairs Division	Tsukuba City	No exam
Junior high school	12 to 15 years old (From the year your child turns 13 years old)	School Affairs Division	Tsukuba City (It is possible to choose another school that is not designated by the City by taking an entry exam.)	No exam
High school	15 to 18 years old (From the year your child turns 16 years old)	Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education	Your child	Entry exam
Special needs school*	Elementary and lower secondary education: 6 to 15 years old	Special Education Support Office	It will be decided after consultation with the City.	No exam
	Upper secondary education: 15 -18 years old	Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education	It will be decided after consultation with a preferred school.	Entry exam

-Special needs schools are for children with disability. It is divided into elementary, secondary and high school education stages.

**-For procedures to go to elementary, junior high and compulsory education schools, inquire at Schools Affairs Division**

School zones are designated by the board of education, and schools are determined based on the address on your residence certificate.

If you wish to send your child to a school outside the designated zone without changing your address, or if you wish to continue to send your child to the same school after moving out of the zone, you need a permission from the board of education, so please come to Schools Affairs Division at Tsukuba City Hall and complete the procedure.

-Starting School Letter will be sent to parents whose children are starting to go to elementary school, junior high school and compulsory school at the end of November. Please go through the procedure at School Affairs Division if you wish to send your child to a school outside the school zone for the following reasons:

1. You are planning to move out of Tsukuba City or Japan.
2. You are moving to a different school zone within Tsukuba City.
3. Your child is planning to go to a private or national school or special needs school (for visual, hearing, intellectual, physical disability or physical weakness).
4. You are planning to apply for a school outside the designated zone.
5. You would like to delay the timing of starting school, due to illness or other reasons.
6. Your child cannot start going to the designated school for reasons other than above.

**-For procedures to change schools, inquire at School Affairs Division**

When you move to Tsukuba City from other municipality and are changing your child's schools, please complete the procedure at School Affairs Division or branch office of Tsukuba City Hall. If you are moving out of Tsukuba City, please complete the procedure at the school.

**-For Financial Aid for School Enrollment, inquire at School Affairs Division**

With the approval of the Board of Education, financial aid for school supplies and school lunches will be provided for children who may have difficulty going to a school due to financial reasons. This is for children of households receiving livelihood protection or household of equivalent and there are income restrictions to receive the aid. Please inquire at your child's school.

**-For High School Scholarship Scheme, inquire at Education Division for Ibaraki Prefectural High Schools**

Pupils of any high schools are eligible for High School Tuition Support Fund to cover their Tuition. Each Prefecture also provide monetary support for education other than tuition (fees for textbooks, school supplies, etc.) for low-income families.

### -For Children's Center (*Jidokan* 児童館), inquire at Childcare Program Division

Children's Centers are local facilities for children aged from 0 to 18 in the area to play and spend time. There are 18 Children's Centers in Tsukuba City. Staff at Children's Centers provide guidance and support to children so that they can have fun safely and develop their creativity, independence and teamwork skills. Children Centers can be used for various club activities.

Open hours: From Monday to Friday 8:30am-6pm / Every second Saturday 8: 30am-12pm

Closed on Saturdays (excluding second Saturdays), Sundays, national holidays and from Dec 29 to Jan 3

Name of Children's Center	Address	Phone	Name of Children's Center	Address	Phone
Sakae	127-4 Yokomachi	029(857)4206	Azuma-higashi	4-12 Azuma	029(852)7858
Kokonoe	2094 Uenomuro	029(857)4631	Takezono-higashi	3-18-1 Takezono	029(851)5802
Kukizaki	1793 Oguki	029(840)1321	Takezono-nishi	2-19-2 Takezono	029(852)5039
Kamigo	2270-1 Kamigo	029(847)5546	Teshirogi-minami	4-15-1 Matsushiro	029(852)0670
Yoshinuma	814-1 Yoshinuma	029(865)2070	Ninomiya	4-9-2 Ninomiya	029(855)6091
Higashi	2-24-1 Higashi	029(851)4801	Yatabe	4715 Yatabe	029(836)0611
Osone	447-3 Osone	029(864)0181	Namiki	4-2-3 Namiki	029(851)5331
Matsushiro	2-21-2 Matsushiro	029(855)6110	Sakura-minami	4-7-3 Namiki	029(858)0791
Azuma-nishi	2-5-4 Azuma	029(851)8141	Oda	2410 Oda	029(867)1190

### -For Childcare Clubs (*Jido Kurabu* 児童クラブ), inquire at Childcare Program Division

Childcare Clubs aims to promote the sound development of children by providing them space to play and spend time, whose parents are not at home due to work or other reasons.

There are 3 types of childcare clubs; One is publicly owned and managed clubs, the other is publicly owned and privately managed clubs and the last one is privately owned and managed clubs. Each school has designated childcare clubs.

For Childcare Clubs that are publicly owned and managed, please apply at the club you wish to send your child. If you wish to send your child from April, please apply in the middle of December to January. There is a guidance booklet for childcare clubs in English so please pick it up at Childcare Program Division in Tsukuba City Hall or Children's Centers.

For Childcare Clubs that are publicly owned and privately managed, as well as privately owned and managed, please refer to Tsukuba City's official website for details (location, contact of inquiry and designated elementary school) and inquire at each Childcare Club.

### -For Schools in Japan, inquire Tsukuba International Association: 029-869-7675

Children are able to go to a high school of their choice in Japan provided that they pass the entry exam. Tsukuba International Association holds "Pre-school & Pre-class", guidance on going to schools in Japan from time to time. If your child is thinking about going to a school in Japan, please come visit the association as soon as you can.

Reference: "High School Admissions Guide for non-Japanese Children and their Parents"

(<https://www.common-globalcenter.org/翻訳資料等/教育関係/>)

**-For Learning Support Scheme for Children,** inquire at Children Welfare Office

Learning support and spaces are provided for children of household receiving livelihood protection and/or Financial Aid for School Education (by *Tsukuba Kodomo-no Aoi Hane Gakushu-ka*).

Who is eligible? Children of household on livelihood protection and/or Financial Aid for School Education (From 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade). It is free of charge. Open days, hours, location are subject to change, so please inquire for details.

**-For fostering a child,** inquire at Childcare Consultation Office

If you wish to foster a child, please call Tsuchiura Child Guidance Center in Ibaraki Prefecture (3-14-5 Shimo-Takatsu Tsuchiura). Phone number is 029 (821) 4595. Foster parents will look after children whose parents cannot look after them due to illness, accident or other reasons.

**-If you wish to talk about your child under 18-year-old,** inquire at Childcare Consultation Office

Staff from the family and child support service will listen to any issues you may have about your child under 18-year-old. For complicated issues which require more support, it will be dealt with in cooperation with the related institutions such as Child Guidance Center and/or Health Centers. It is free of charge and your information will be kept confidential, so please feel free to contact the office.

Open hours: From Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm (Excluding national holidays and from Dec29 to Jan 3)

**-For short-term childcare support service (Short Stay),** inquire at Childcare Consultation Office

This is a service to temporarily look after a child at a Child Welfare Facility, etc., whose parents cannot look after him/her due to illness, giving birth, accident, etc. The maximum period of stay is 7 days, and the fee is subject to vary from 1,000 JPY to 5,350 JPY according to the circumstance of the household. Registration is required to use the service so please come and register in advance.

Open hours: From Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm (Excluding national holidays and from Dec29 to Jan 3)

**-For facilities to support single-mother families,** inquire at Childcare Policy Division

Facilities to support single-mother families are facilities to protect single-mother families and equivalent families so that they can be financially independent.

**-For the support service for vocational training,** inquire at Childcare Policy Division

Financial support will be provided for persons who wish to be trained to work or obtain a qualification to work at a training institution for more than one year.

Who is eligible? Single-parents who are a resident of Tsukuba City and are receiving Child Rearing Allowance or income of the equivalent.

The subsidy will be provided for persons to get a qualification/license for nurses, assistant nurses, care workers, childcare workers, physical therapists, occupational therapists, hairdressers, nutritionists, dental hygienists, social workers, confectionary hygienists, chef, etc.

Payment amount: Household exempted from municipal tax - 100,000 JPY per month (140,000 JPY for the last month) Household imposed municipal tax - 70,500 JPY per month (110,500 JPY for the last month)

Persons who receive this subsidy may be entitled to further support of 40,000 JPY per month if certain requirements are met (up to 3 years).

To apply for the subsidy, it is required to talk about eligibility and possibility of getting the license/qualification in advance. Please inquire for details.

### -Frequently asked questions

#### Q Is it possible to enroll in a grade lower than the actual age?

- A In principle, if the child is under 15-year-old, he/she has to be in the grade according to his/her age. For children older than 15-year-old, the following applies:
- In principle, he/she cannot go to a public junior high school, but can study at a "night school".
  - He/She can go to a high school regardless of his/her age, as long as he/she passes an entry exam. To take the exam, a certificate to indicate that he/she had 9 years of compulsory education is required.

Important points to note:

- He/She cannot take an entry exam for high school with student visa or working visa, but can take the exam with permanent residence, residence or dependent visa.
- If he/she is a minor, he/she needs to be living with his/her parents.

#### Q What is a Japanese language class?

- A It is a class to learn Japanese language for children whose Japanese level is not sufficient to learn with his/her class mates. Please note that some schools do not have this class.

#### Q What is the difference between international schools and public schools?

- A There is an option for your child to go to an international school. Each international school has different curriculum and learn in different languages designated by the school. Some international schools have kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and high school.

N.B. If your child is going to a Japanese school, please bear in mind the following things:

- When your child is late to go to school, leave early, or take a day off, contact the school.
- Most schools have PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) and most school zones have kid's club (*Kodomo-kai* 子供会). Find out if your child's school and school zone have one. Where possible, please participate class observation sessions which schools hold from time to time.
- School lunches will be provided. Pupils are required to clean their classrooms and other places.
- Please do not wear earrings and accessories to school. Pupils are required to wear school shoes inside the school building.
- Children will go to and come back from their school in groups.