

## 【Timeline from Application to Acceptance】

### (1) Application Period

2021 November 15 (Mon) – November 24 (Wed)

8:30 AM to 5:15 PM

- ① Place to File Your Application  
Please file your application directly to your desired kindergarten or Kodomo-en.
- ② Requirement  
Kindergarten Application Form
- ③ Eligibility  
Guardians of children who are living in Hikone or are absolutely certain that they will be listed on Hikone's Basic Resident Register by 2021 April 1.

### (2) End of Application Screening Process, etc.

2021 Mid-December

- \*If a number of applicants exceeds the capacity of each kindergarten/Kodomo-en, there will be a raffle to choose who will be eligible.
- \*If necessary, a raffle will be held in late December.

### (3) *Riyou Nintei* Procedure

Early January of 2022

- \*Once your application is approved, you need to complete your *Riyou Nintei* procedure. You will be informed of how to get this *Riyou Nitei* procedure done through the kindergarten your child is set to go to.

### (4) Admission Acceptance Letter Mailed

2022 Mid-January

You will receive an admission acceptance letter, etc. from the city of Hikone.

## FY 2022 Kindergartens/Kodomo-en Information

If you are thinking about enrolling your child in a kindergarten or certified Kodomo-en from April of 2022, be sure to apply for a kindergarten/Kodomo-en by the specified deadline. You are not permitted to apply for more than one kindergarten/Kodomo-en at once. You also cannot apply for a kindergarten/Kodomo-en and a nursery school simultaneously. Should you want to apply for a kindergarten after you apply for a nursery school, you must withdraw your application for a nursery school.

### 1, What Are a Kindergarten and Kodomo-en?

While a kindergarten is a school that provides early childhood education to prepare children for their first grade, Kodomo-en has serves as both a kindergarten and nursery school.

### 2, Target Age Groups

- 3 years olds (born between 2018 April 2 and 2019 April 1)
- 4 years olds (born between 2017 April 2 and 2018 April 1)
- 5 years olds (born between 2016 April 2 and 2017 April 1)

### 3, A Number of Vacancies

#### • 3 years olds

Hikone Kindergarten	50	Takamiya Kindergarten	25
Inae Higashi Kindergarten	25	Asahinomori Kindergarten	50
Johoku Kindergarten	25	Kinjo Kindergarten	50
Sawayama Kindergarten	25	Joyo Kindergarten	25
Hirata Kodomo-en	34		

#### • 4 years olds

Hikone Kindergarten	35	Takamiya Kindergarten	10
Inae Higashi Kindergarten	5	Asahinomori Kindergarten	35
Johoku Kindergarten	15	Kinjo Kindergarten	30
Sawayama Kindergarten	5	Joyo Kindergarten	5
Hirata Kodomo-en	5		

- **5 years olds:** Only a few seats are available at each kindergarten and Kodomo-en.

※The number of vacant seats you see above has been tallied up by each kindergarten/Kodomo-en on the assumption that current 3-year-old and 4-year-old children are going to remain enrolled in the same school in FY 2022. For this reason, the number of vacant seat is subject to change.

### 4, Eligibility Criteria

Guardians of children who are living in Hikone or are absolutely certain that they will be listed on Hikone's Basic Resident Register by 2022 April 1.

## 5, Application Process

- Application Period: November 15, 2021. Until November 24, 2021.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. (except weekends and holidays)

- How and Where to Submit Your Application

In general, applications for a nursery school or Kodomo-en need to be submitted online.

Please scan the QR code or use the link below to access the website (available 24/7 in Japanese only). Note that one application is required for each child, and make sure to attach all required documents.

Link: [https://s-kantan.jp/city-hikone-u/offer/offerList\\_initDisplay.action](https://s-kantan.jp/city-hikone-u/offer/offerList_initDisplay.action)

QR Code:



If you want to submit your application form and requirements in person, please do so at the Hikone Early Childhood Division (called *Youjika* in Japanese) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Hikone Welfare Center from 8:30 AM until 5:15 PM.

## 6, Degree of Childcare Support Needs

Degree of childcare support needs will be split into three groups in the table below.

Once your application is approved, you will be required to request the issue of a childcare support certificate called “*Shikyu Nintei Sho*” from the city.

Categories	Target Age Groups	Details	Available Daycare Facilities
Group 1	3 years and older	Children aged 3 years and older whose guardians want them to have early childhood education.	Kindergarten Certified Kodomo-en (Short-time)
Group 2	3 years and older	Children aged 3 years and older whose guardians can meet all criteria to apply for a daycare service.	Nursery School Certified Kodomo-en (Long-time)
Group 3	3 years and younger	Children aged 3 years and younger whose guardians can meet all criteria to apply for a daycare service.	Nursery School Certified Kodomo-en (Long-time) Regional Daycare Center

## 7. The Cost of a Kindergarten

### (1) Japan's Free Childcare Program

A childcare facility for children aged 3 to 5 will be free.

Please keep in mind that you will have to bear all fees for school meals, snacks, school events, and other miscellaneous things.

### (2) The Cost of Side Dishes

The cost of side dishes at Hirata Kodomo-en is 4,000 JPY per month.

All households that belong to the highlighted groups in the table below are exempt from the cost of side dishes.

Category Set by Hikone	Category Set by Japan	Definition	*All households surrounded with the thick bordered lines below will be exempt.		
A	1	Under the Livelihood Protection Law	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child
B1	2	Untaxed Household	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child
B2			1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child
C	3	Amount of income-based tax deduction is under 77,101 JPY	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child
D 1	4	Amount of income-based tax deduction is under 211,201 JPY	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child
D 2	5	Amount of income-based tax deduction is over 211,201 JPY	1 <sup>st</sup> Child	2 <sup>nd</sup> Child	After 3 <sup>rd</sup> Child

Note 1: Whether the cost of side dishes will be exempt or not will be determined after taking all combined household income and amount of income tax into consideration.

Note 2: After a third child, the cost of side dishes will be exempted for households fall into A to C, regardless of age. As for households categorized as D 1 and D 2, both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> children must be aged from 3 years old to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

### (3) The Cost of Staple Food (Rice)

The Hirata Kodomo-en only prepares and serves school lunches to their school children. Because of this, 1,000 JPY for the cost of staple food is added to your monthly fee.

## 8. Severe Weather and Disaster

In Hikone, all public childcare facilities will be closed if an evacuation advisory higher than the level 3, a storm warning, or a special warning is issued, or a stronger-than-seismic-intensity-upper-5 earthquake strikes the city. For further details, please refer to “**Daycare Services When a Weather Warning is Issued.**”

## 9. Other Notes

(1) An admission confirmation letter will be mailed out around mid-January 2022.

(2) Once a number of applications exceed a number of vacant seats, a raffle will be held at each school.

Each raffle will be held on December 8 (Wed), 2021, and the reception starts at 2:30 p.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Note that if you arrive at your desired school to draw a raffle after 3:00 p.m., you will not be able to participate in the raffle under no circumstance. In addition, if you want to enroll more than one child in the same school, drawing one raffle will determine whether you will get accepted or not.

(3) If your desired school is going to host a raffle for applicants, you will be notified by post.

If not, information about no raffle will be given to you through a bulletin board of each school only.

(4) One application form is required to be submitted for each child.

(5) All guardians will be asked to join the Mutual Aid Disaster Insurance of the Japan Sport Council for their child/children.

# Daycare Services When a Weather Warning is Issued 【Ver. 3】

## For Kindergartens

(Effective on September 4, 2020)

### □ Evacuation Warning: Alert Level 3 or Higher

Before leaving home or on the way to a kindergarten.	Please refrain from going to a kindergarten and hunker down or seek shelter to ensure safety.
After arriving at a kindergarten.	As a general rule, all daycare services will be stopped. A kindergarten will contact and ask guardians to pick up their child.
If an evacuation warning is issued at 7:00 a.m.	All kindergartens will be temporarily closed.

※ Depending on the extent of damage, even after the level-3 alert or higher is lifted, a kindergarten may remain closed. In this case, you will be notified via e-mail or other contact methods.

### □ Storm Warning, Storm and Thunder Warning, Special Warning

Before leaving home or on the way to a kindergarten.	Please refrain from going to a kindergarten and hunker down or seek shelter to ensure safety.
After arriving at a kindergarten.	As a general rule, all daycare services will be stopped. A kindergarten will contact and ask guardians to pick up their child.
If an evacuation warning is issued at 7:00 a.m.	All kindergartens will be temporarily closed.

※ If other types of warning, such as a torrential rain, flooding, and so on, are issued, all kindergartens will open as usual. With that said, depending on the extent of damage or the expected risk of damage, the school your child goes to may be temporarily closed. In this case, you will be notified via e-mail or other contact methods.

### □ If an Earthquake Greater than the Seismic Intensity Level 5 Hits Hikone

Before leaving home or on the way to a kindergarten.	All kindergartens will be closed.
After arriving at the school.	As a general rule, all daycare services will be stopped. A kindergarten will contact and ask guardians to pick up their child.

※ Whether the kindergarten your child goes to should be opened or not the day after an earthquake will be determined by inspecting the extent of damage, risk of further damage, etc. If the school decides to remain closed or take other measures, you can expect to be notified via e-mail or other contact methods.