

Untouched nature.

Free spirit.

Innocent smile.



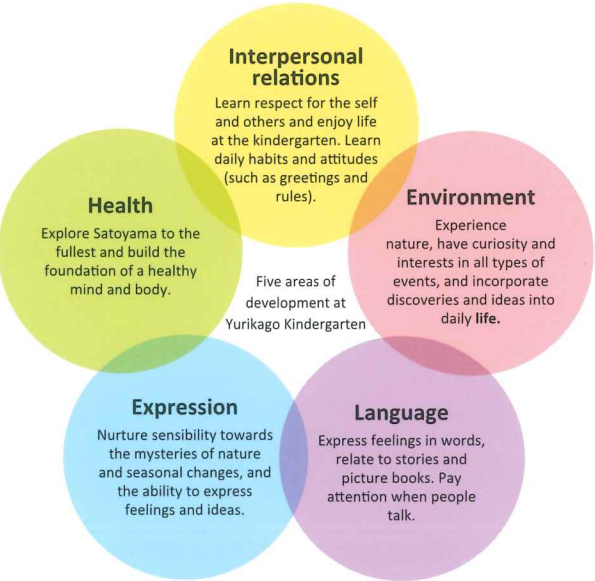


# Balanced "life power" emerges in this peaceful Satoyama environment.

The children at Tokyo Yurikago Kindergarten learn about the changes that occur with the four seasons (nature education), become familiar with the nearby environment (environmental education), achieve goals through sustained effort (elaboration education), grow crops from scratch by working hard (food and agriculture education), and act to protect the future of the Earth (sustainable development education - SDE).

Like children in the old days, they play all day along in nature and gain much wisdom. Experiencing nature as it is and real life will eventually become a valuable "formative experience" and serve as a foundation for curiosity, creativity, thinking power and peace of mind.

On the background of an ever-changing Satoyama, children take part in activities such as free play and group play, outdoor and indoor activities, a combination of "static and dynamic" activities to deepen their curiosity and interest, and to cultivate a balanced "life power".



Be involved

Children run up and down across the mountain slopes and become stronger in both body and mind through daily play.



Twigs, leaves and fruit, all coming from the forest ... Children use these natural resources in art projects.



Human environment



Many illustrated and picture books. A world of discovery and imagination is waiting.



Natural environment



Experiencing the change of seasons and the natural cycle nurture a kind heart and the willingness to explore.

Live



Lunch prepared carefully at the kindergarten. The children love it and always ask for seconds.



Social environment



Physical environment



Attitude



Emotion

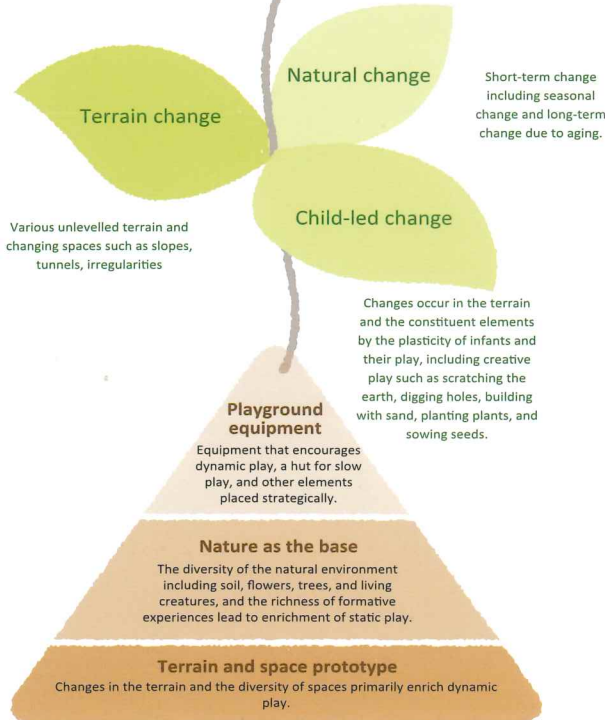


The kindergarten building resembles a Japanese farmhouse. The veranda corridor is great for play.

Motivation



Educational outcomes



## Yurikago Garden Concept

- The vision behind our kindergarten grounds -

Searching for the ideal kindergarten grounds for child development ... Based on our history, we have analyzed, studied and reached the current Garden Concept. At the core, the concept is based on three types of change: "terrain change", "natural change" and "child-led change". We have reached the conclusion that this environment developed around change has the greatest educational potential. The children who learn here are proof of how it works. Yurikago's grounds will, however, continue to evolve. As children's potential is limitless, we also continue to pursue "the best environment" to develop their potential.

The biotope of Tokyo Yurikago Kindergarten has been awarded many prizes since the 7th (2011) National School & Kindergarten Grounds Biotope Competition. In 2015, we won the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Award.



The whole kindergarten grounds are open for use during free playtime. Each child has his or her own favorite place. In the Forest Square, Heidi's swing, Tarzan's rope, and the monkey bridge are the most popular. Children can play to their heart's desire, with nothing to worry about.

The pin oak is hard to miss among the trees in the forest. It watches over the children, and stretches its branches higher and higher every year protecting our kindergarten's challenges and history.

For campfires, baked sweet potatoes, pottery firing and other big fires, we use fire circles. Small bonfires are lit here and there on the kindergarten grounds. The children sing around the fire, dance, or just stare into the flames. The smoke, smell, and warmth ... are all important formative experiences of the value of fire.

Five terraced rice paddies, an image of the good old Japanese landscape. Children experience all the stages of rice cultivation through the year, from soil tilling, soil coating, and irrigating to threshing.

Our handmade wooden stage is perfect for forest experience activities, class meetings, pretend play, theatre shows, music and dance. Are the forest animals may be watching us from the shade!?

Under the great blue sky,  
Over the big black earth,  
Listening to the sounds of the forest and the animals,  
Feeling life flowing throughout their bodies,  
Growing strong and kind.  
This is our vision and our mission  
In educating your children.

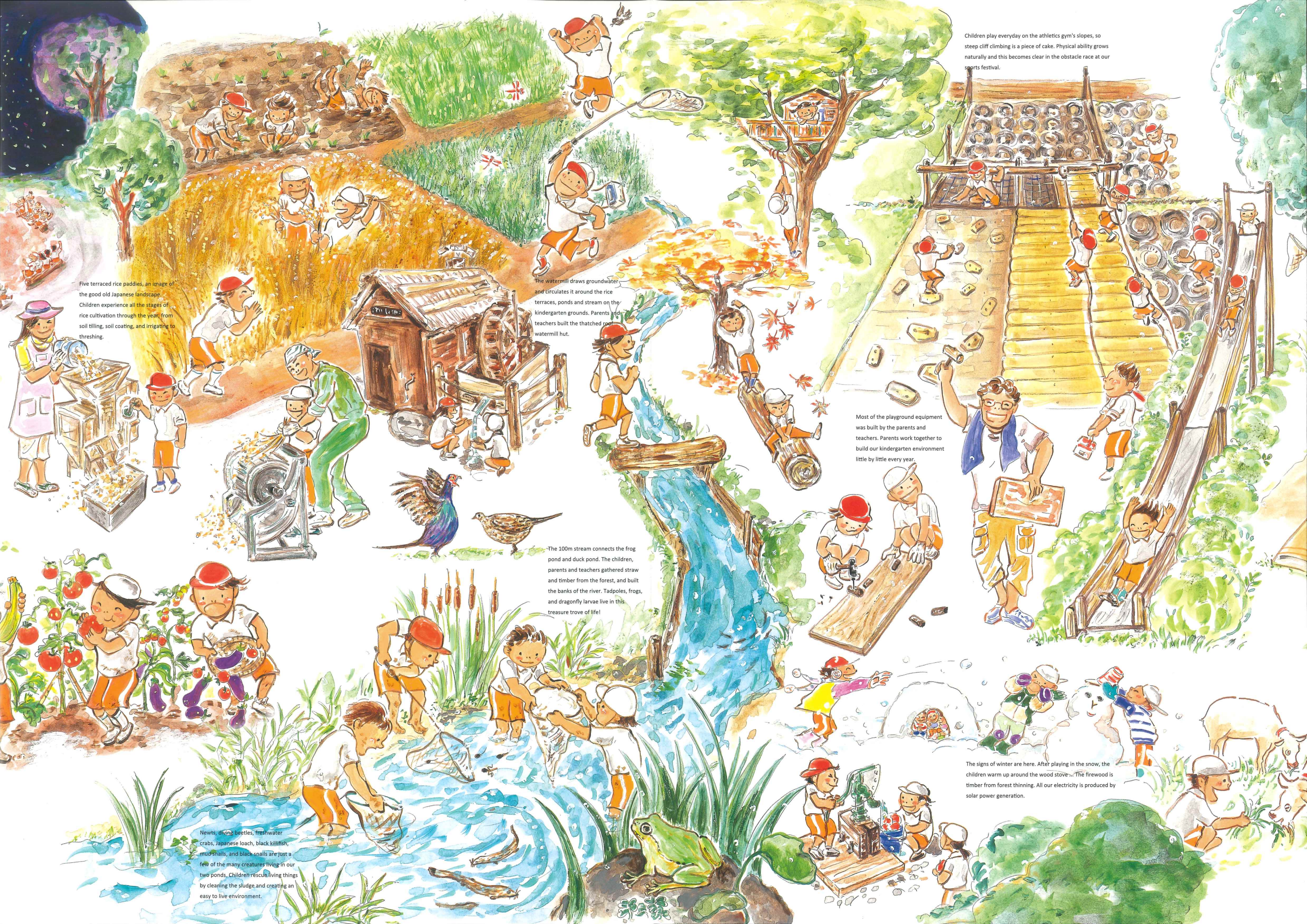
After picking all the vegetables they grew themselves, the children cut them and use them as toppings for our pizza party! The pizzas are baked inside the oven our teachers built. Hot pizzas are great! After harvesting the rice, we celebrate the harvest by cooking the rice and holding a rice ball party! In our outdoor restaurant everyone wears a big happy smile.

Eggplant, tomato, corn, okra, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, carrot and more... A total of over 30 kinds of organic vegetables are grown by the children in the kindergarten's gardens from scratch. Vegetable waste from lunch, goat and horse manure and mowed grass are mixed to make compost used to fertilize the soil and grow safe and tasty vegetables. Experience the natural cycle of life!

Newts, diving beetles, freshwater crabs, Japanese loach, black killifish, mud snails, and black snails are just a few of the many creatures living in our two ponds. Children rescue living things by cleaning the sludge and creating an easy to live environment.

The 100m stream connects the frog pond and duck pond. The children, parents and teachers gathered straw and timber from the forest, and built the banks of the river. Tadpoles, frogs, and dragonfly larvae live in this treasure trove of life!





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The watermill draws groundwater and circulates it around the rice terraces, ponds and stream on the kindergarten grounds. Parents and teachers built the thatched roof watermill hut.

Most of the playground equipment was built by the parents and teachers. Parents work together to build our kindergarten environment little by little every year.

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Children play everyday on the athletics gym's slopes, so steep cliff climbing is a piece of cake. Physical ability grows naturally and this becomes clear in the obstacle race at our sports festival.

The signs of winter are here. After playing in the snow, the children warm up around the wood stove. The firewood is timber from forest thinning. All our electricity is produced by solar power generation.



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Acorn picked up in the forest sprouted... We plant trees every year to help return the land developed as residential area to Satoyama again.

Goshawks, birds that can only live in a rich habitat, live inside the forest. Foxes, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, owls, flying squirrels, and snakes sometimes come onto the kindergarten grounds late at night.

Every day is like an excursion! Children walk among the trees in the forest and see insects and flowers and real life.

In the great 40-ha forest, there live many unique plants and endangered species such as gold orchids and silver orchids. Children can experience a diverse ecosystem and feel at home in nature.

The lawn was planted by parents and teachers. Children run, play football and participate in the sports festival here. Sometimes wild rabbits come too, in the morning!

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Our pet goat and kid love to eat. Their loud cries echo over the grounds. The children who were afraid of animals in the beginning get slowly closer to help feeding and cleaning them.

Some symbols of the old kindergarten before relocation still remain here and there. Our old symbol tree, a metasequoia tree, was carved into the children's idol, Shiro. It keeps watch every day over the children coming and going from kindergarten.





