

After School Open Square Q&A

Q1:How different is it from Room for Children whose parents are away?

- ① After School Open Square is not a program of childcare to provide a place for living or taking care of children such as Room for Children whose parents are away. It is a place for the children who wish to participate in to take initiative, play, and learn through interacting with friends and staff members.
 - ② There is no usage fee. (1,000 yen is required at the time of registration.) There is no fixed number.
 - ③ Contact for attendance is required only on Saturdays/three seasons vacation period. No contact for attendance is required on weekdays at regular school day.
 - ④ We will not be able to accept parents' request such as "Please let our child go home at ●.", etc. Children go home at the designated time that they discussed with their parents at home. Please be sure to discuss how to spend time at After School Open Square, the safety on the way to and from After School Open Square, etc. with children at home, then participate in under parents' responsibilities.
 - ⑤ During operation, staff members watch over children's proactive activities, talk to them and support.
 - ⑥ There is no extension.
 - ⑦ Both Room for Children whose parents are away and After School Open Square can be used together.
 - ⑧ Children should come to After School Open Square of their own will.
- ※"Room for Children whose parents are away" and "After School Open Square" have different purposes. Please discuss with children at home, and choose one depending on each family's purpose.

Q2:What to do to participate?

Registration is required to participate every year.(Even if you have used this program before, re-registration is required to use after April in Reiwa8.)

Registration is available even in the middle of school year. Apply either online or in person at the counter of After School Children Division.

To the children who registered in Reiwa7, renewal notification will be sent to the registered address by the end of February in Reiwa8.

If you would like to have continuous registration, please check the information of the renewal notification.

(Please let each After School Open Square know as soon as possible if there is a change of your registered information, such as moving, etc.)

Q3:When is it open?

Weekdays	after class-5p.m. (open until 4:30p.m. from October to March)
Saturdays, Three seasons vacation period	9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. (open until 4:30p.m. from October to March)

※Closed on Sundays, National Holidays, compensatory day off of Elementary school, School Founding Anniversary, school holidays(FYI; 7days in Reiwa7(2025) August 9th, Saturday, - August 15th, Friday), and the end of the year and New Year holiday (December 29th - January 3rd).

Q4:What do children do?

The children who wish to participate can play taking initiative at After School Open Square(special classrooms and/or designated rooms) and/or playground, etc. after school. It is also used as a place for reading, doing homework, and self-learning as well. Children decide what to do by themselves and spend time after school. Playing toys such as balls, card games(playing cards), etc. are prepared.

Q5:Is there a participation fee?

There is no usage fee; however, 1,000 yen is required at the time of registration.

(It will be used for general insurance premium, postage fee, and a part of the cost for buying toys, etc. that children play with).

Please use a credit card or PayPay for online application; on the other hand, cash payment only for application in person at the counter.

After the payment of 1,000 yen, the application is completed.

Q6:How about the lunch during three seasons vacation period?

During three seasons vacation period(summer/winter/spring vacation) and on the day with no school lunch, children can bring their lunch boxes and eat at After School Open Square.

The refrigerator, etc. to keep lunch boxes cool is not available. Parents are responsible for storing lunch boxes (to keep cool or pay attention to hygiene) and taking care of food allergies, etc. Besides, we kindly ask for parents' guidance to children not to exchange side dishes with friends, etc.

Children can join in After School Open Square again after once going home and having lunch at home.

However, please do not bring any snacks into After School Open Square.

Q7:Is it OK to join after once leaving school?

Children can leave school once and come again to join in After School Open Square.

Children can leave school once for lunch or snack, then come again to join in After School Open Square.

Please discuss and decide with children at home whether they join in After School Open Square after once going home and coming back, or join in after class without going home.

Q8:What will happen when a child is injured?

Children could be injured while playing even if they are careful not to be injured. If a child is injured, simple first aid will be given. However, we might contact the parents and ask to pick up the child and take him/her to a hospital depending on the situation.

Please register emergency contact information that can reach you anytime. (In case of emergency, we will call an ambulance.)

Q9:Can children leave early? Attendance confirmation and absence notification are needed?

[Weekday]

Children can come/go as they please. No need to contact us regarding participation/absence on weekdays.

Please understand that we will not be able to fulfill your request to manage children's time to go home, such as "Please let children go home at ●p.m.", etc.

[Saturdays/three seasons vacation period]

Attendance notification required by 11:00a.m. the day before the participation on Saturdays/three seasons vacation period to prepare for long hours usage and to secure our operation system.

Please discuss and decide with children about the time to go home in advance.

Q10: Is there any rules about belongings?

The rule of belongings is the same as that of elementary school. For example, water bottles with tea and workbooks for learning, etc. are allowed to bring, but snacks and game players, etc. are not allowed to bring. (same at three seasons vacation period)

Q11: Is it OK to come by bicycle?

It is not allowed to come by bicycle. Please follow the elementary school rules same as that of the belongings.

Q12: How do parents check if children have gone home?

Regarding entry/exit times, etc., we are using "the control system of entering and leaving room" (KODOMON) and will inform parents by app notifications or email, etc. (Parents should set it up themselves before using.) We do not manage children's time to go home. Please refrain from contacting us daily about the time to go home.

Q13: Is tea prepared?

Tea is not available. Especially in summer, please bring a large water bottle with tea, etc.

Q14: How do we response in case of emergency, such as at the time of a disaster?

In case of emergency such as the time when weather warnings, etc. are announced, we check the information/assess the situation, then decide whether to hold it. In that case, we will contact you through "the control system of entering and leaving room" (KODOMON); therefore, please make sure to register for the APP by the first day of your usage. Besides, there may be times when we will call the registered contact information at the time of application. Please be sure to set it up so that you can receive a call from us. (The phone number at each place listed on Hirakata City Homepage.)

(The way to register for the APP will be mailed to the children who register for the first time in Reiwa8.)

Q15: Is there any guidance about the start of usage?

After the application completed, the guidance of "the control system of entering and leaving room" (KODOMON), etc. will be mailed to the children who register for the first time in Reiwa8 by the first day of usage. (There is no guidance to be mailed to the children who have registered before.)

If you apply after the first application deadline, generally to apply by 10th each month will make this program available from the beginning of the next month.

Please use this program after registering for the KODOMON APP and checking the "Usage Guide" on the Hirakata City Official Homepage

■ Contact

Hirakata City Board of Education, After School Children Division
(Kagayaki Plaza 4th floor, 1-1-1 Kurumazuka Hirakata-shi)

☎ 050-7105-8201 FAX 072-867-8131