

Otsuka Opens 2nd Day Care Center in the Third Largest City



Slideshow of the Beanstalk Kids Center OSAKA

In Japan, finding day care service is extremely difficult. The “Beanstalk Kids Center OSAKA” that opened on April 1st right next to the new Osaka office building, is located in the proximity of Otsuka Group offices in an urban area of Osaka, where the problem of long day care waiting lists is particularly severe.^{*1} Beanstalk Kids Center OSAKA was built for Otsuka employees.

Company senior management is committed to child care

Company Senior Managements is committed to child care because Chairman Akihiko Otsuka has always believed in utilizing the talents of a diverse group of individuals to create innovative products and ideas.

Therefore, day care service has always been an important aspect for Otsuka. Also, to promote the efforts of a more diverse employee base, Otsuka has been introducing systems such as flexible working hours, paid caregiver leave, and telecommuting arrangements.

More than 80% of children on waiting lists for day care are younger than 2. ^{*1} Otsuka’s second day care center accepts infants as young as 57 days old. Although Japanese day care centers are open for 10.5 hours a day on average, ^{*2} Otsuka’s day care center will be open for up to 12.5 hours in order to more easily accommodate the schedules of Otsuka employees.

Otsuka’s first day care center expands due to the high demand from employees

The first day care center, the “Tokushima Beanstalk Kids’ Center” was opened in Tokushima three years ago. The number of applicants has increased because of the center’s popularity, and it now cares for more than 3 times the number of children it did when it first opened. The Tokushima

Beanstalk Kids' Center can now accommodate 150 children, up from 100. That is very rare as most Japanese day care centers managed by companies for their employees only offer placements for 30 children. ^{*2} Otsuka has plans to open more day care centers in Japan and overseas.

Carefully and thoughtfully designed day care center

Luxurious and rare in any day care centers, tall north-facing windows allow in large amounts of indirect sunlight into the center. Low eaves just like a traditional Japanese veranda also create the visual effect of large open space that offers children a creative space to learn and grow. The interior space utilizes natural materials such as wood and cork (flooring).



(left to right) Dr. Taro Iwamoto, President, Representative Director, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd and Mr. Tatsuo Higuchi, President, Representative Director, and CEO, Otsuka Holdings, attending the opening ceremony in Osaka on April 1st

^{*1} According to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's "Summary of Day Care Statistics" (April 1, 2013) Of 22,741 children on waiting lists, 18,656 (82%) were younger than 3 years of age, and 18,267 (80.3%) were from the urban centers or cities of 7 prefectures.

^{*2} Dai-ichi Life Research Institute Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's 2009 Service Industry Productivity Improvement Support Initiative (February 2010)