

Unit
9

What does it say?

Activities to get children interested in alphabet letters found in their daily lives, and to familiarize them with alphabet letters.

Unit Aims

Written English can be found in many places around Japan. Sometimes the English is used as symbols, and sometimes English words are written. In this unit, children will think about what such written English found in familiar places mean. The English that appears in this unit is not *romaji* such as shop names, but symbols that originate in English words or actual English words being used. It is hoped that children will start to think about what the meanings are when coming across written English.

Vocabulary

English words used on billboards , shop signs , traffic signs , etc.

Classroom English

Where do you see this sign?

Where is this word?

What's this English?

What English did you find?

Step of Activities

- (1) Thinking about the meanings of the alphabet letters or words on the page. P.41
- (2) Finding the English signboards and signs in the picture on the page. P.42-P.43
- (3) Finding English words in the picture and learning how they are read. P.42-P.43
- (4) Finding written English around themselves or in town and copying

them in the chart. P.44

Reference

When children start to show interest in written English, the first confusion is the difference in spelling between *romaji* and English. It is said that the use of *romaji* started when foreign Christian missionaries took records of sounds in Japanese. As a result, the letters used to record the sounds varied depending on which country the missionaries were from. For example, the Japanese sound “shi” was written as “xi” by the Portuguese, “si” or “schi” by the Dutch, “chi” or “si” by the French, and “shi” by the British and Americans.

Other Possible Activities

Do an activity to compare the difference in spelling between *romaji* and English. The teacher says an English word which is familiar to the children, and then they write the word in *romaji*. Then the teacher introduces the word spelled in English and compares the spelling in *romaji* and English.

Please write “cat” in *romaji*.

Saori, how do you spell it?

You wrote “kyatto.”

We write it like this in English.