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# **GLOBAL TALK**

Serving James English School and our clients since 2005

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

'Cultural Differences with Raising Children in Japan'

#### ■ 異なる文化による育児の違い



HOME

#### 日本も国際化が進みいろいろな家族形態が増えましたね。盛岡校のリッチー 先生が感じた日本と世界の育児の違いについて話しています。

ow many times do we hug and kiss our kids? In Western culture it's hard to keep track, since we give more hugs and kisses than Japanese parents do. In all the times I have gone to children's play areas here in Japan, I have yet to see a Japanese parent kiss and hug their kids. I would probably never hear a Japanese parent say, "I love you" to their child. Westerners find this somewhat cold and distant since in our culture we feel that it is important to show affection in order to express feelings for one another. It is not that the Japanese culture is completely devoid of physical affection. After all, it is the Japanese who coined the delightful term "skin-ship" to express that closeness between parent and child. Although it is fairly common for Japanese parents to take baths with their kids and sleep together in one futon, in the Western world this would make most parents quite squeamish.

I think that affection makes a child feel secure to explore the world on their own. I noticed that my kids, in their infancy, would go off on their own to play and interact with other kids, while Japanese kids their age would roam only about a meter away from their parents. As a Westerner, I want my children to be independent, and by showing affection I create a secure feeling that encourages them to go out on their own. Japanese parents, on the other hand, tend to raise their children to be dependent on them and the group. This manifests more clearly in how they discipline their children. Japanese children are raised to think about how their behavior affects their parents and other people. Westerners, on the other hand make sure children realize what they do wrong and what the consequences might be, and how that will affect them individually. The upside to childrearing in Japan is that you raise children who are very conscious of group membership and belonging and behaving in ways that do not upset the group. It is what makes Japanese society so orderly and harmonious. Although children often end up relying too much on what others think which limits their ability to express themselves freely. This is part of the reason Westerners have an impression that Japanese are often shy and quiet. Not to say that the Western way of raising kids is without fault. Parents often make their children overly optimistic and some children end up having unrealistic expectations about themselves. Interestingly, American teenagers rank number one in the world when it comes to self-confidence, number 35 in terms of math scores. They might be extremely confident, but not always correct.

Being a foreigner in Japan has given me a chance to see childrearing from so many different perspectives. What I have come to understand is that if you want insight into raising children you need to look at the culture they will grow up in. Japanese are more group orientated where the individual is less important than the group. Westerners, on the other hand, prize the individual. It would be narrow minded to believe that one is better than the other. In the end we can only try to raise our children in a way that will help them thrive in an increasingly globalised world.

━━━━=読み解きのヒント ━━

somewhat やや・いくぶん devoid 欠けていて			
delightful 楽しい・愉快	央な squeamish	気障り s	ecure 安心な
<b>discipline</b> 訓練する	childrearing 育児	harmonio	ous 和やかな

## 子供に望む性格特性ベスト5・日本VSアメリカ

日本とアメリカでは子供に望む性格性が こんなに違うんですよ!! 文化の違いによってこんなにも

変わってくるのですね。

国名	日本	アメリカ
1	他人の事を思いやる心 (61.9%)	責任感(49.8%)
2	規則を守り、人に迷惑をか けない公共心(44.8%)	公正さや正義感 (32.0%)
3	責任感(39.5%)	落ち着きや情緒の安 定(29.4%)
4	礼儀正しさ(34.4%)	他人の事を思いやる 心(26.7%)
5	人前で自分の意見をはっ きり言う力(29.8%)	礼儀正しさ(25.8%)





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上記のスクールへお電話下さい。