HUE RISE Resource Series No.2

Practical Introduction to Multi-grade Teaching in Japan

Hokkaido University of Education Research Institute for Remote and Small School Education (HUE RISE)

Preface

This English booklet is a detailed version of "the Guidebook for Multi-grade Teaching in Remote Areas" (2021), published in Japanese by Hokkaido University of Education - Research Institute for Remote and Small School Education (HUE RISE). It expands upon our previous publication, "HUE RISE Resource Series No.1 - Brief Introduction to Multi-grade Teaching in Japan" (2020).

Originally the Japanese guidebook was designed for teaching our university students and assisting their internship programs. It has been downloaded many times by students, in-service teachers, and education administrators not only in Japan but also in many other foreign countries.

Multi-grade classes can be seen everywhere both in industrial and developing countries. Some are small-sized, and some are bigger due to the degree of remoteness and/or the availability of teachers. Every country has their own creative ways to manage multi-grade classes based on their educational policies and culture. However, many teachers tend to struggle to manage multi-grade teaching particularly, in developing countries. Educational development projects implemented by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and NGOs focus on teaching and managing multi-grade classes and they sometimes request us to make professional contributions. We sincerely hope this Japanese style of multi-grade teaching will be helpful to other countries, however, no system is perfect and so we hope to continue to develop and learn by cooperating and sharing knowledge and techniques with all nations.

This paper mainly contains examples of teaching and lesson plans, teaching techniques, assessment viewpoints, and styles of learning environment. It is also recommended to refer to the previously published simplified version which covers some of the basic principles.

We hope this publication will be useful to anybody who is involved in multi-grade teaching around the world.

May 2021 Ayumi Kawamae Deputy-Director Research Institute for Remote and Small School Education Hokkaido University of Education The latest Japanese and English version of this booklet can be downloaded from the link below.

https://www.hokkyodai.ac.jp/edu_center_remoteplace/public/duplex_guide.html

<The full version in Japanese>



『へき地・複式学級における学習指導の手引』
"Guidebook for Multi-Grade Teaching in Remote Areas"
Edited & Published by Hokkaido University of Education - Research Institute for Remote and Small School Education (HUE RISE)

- Published in March 2019

<The simplified version in English>



- "HUE RISE Resource Series No.1: Brief Introduction to Multi-grade Teaching in Japan" 『日本の複式学級における学習指導の手引』 英語翻訳版(簡易版)

 Edited & Published by Hokkaido University of Education - Research Institute for Remote and Small School Education (HUE RISE)

- Published in April 2020

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1. Designing a Grade-based Teaching Plan

1.1 Before Entering Each New Unit

In the process of writing a grade-based teaching plan, the teacher needs to understand the subjects of both grades thoroughly and allocate each grade teaching hours in a unit. Also, the teacher should consider the learning activities of both student grades in each lesson (45 minutes in primary schools in Japan) and how to combine the contents of each in the teaching process.

It is important to define the objectives of the units for each grade according to the curriculum followed. Assessment criteria, its elements and assessment methods should be prepared in the plan. Characteristics of the four elements of assessment are described in section 2.4 (p 3-4).

	Grade 3					Gra	de 4	
Name of Unit	"XXXXX	XXXXX"			"XXXXXXXXXX"			
Objectives of	-XXXXX	xxxxxxx			-XXXXXXXXXXX			
Unit	-XXXXXXXXXXXX				-XXXXXX	XXXXXXX		
Assessment	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Criteria	-Interest -Willingness -Attitude	-Thinking -Judgement -Expression	-Skills	-Knowledge -Understanding	-Interest -Willingness -Attitude	-Thinking -Judgement -Expression	-Skills	-Knowledge -Understanding

Chart 1. Description of Objectives and Assessment Criteria for Unit

1.2 Designing a Grade-based Teaching Plan

In the brief introductory version of this booklet, a technique of shifting schedules called Zurashi in Japanese was introduced. It is a common technique in multi-grade teaching to enable a balanced combination of different learning content between two grades both in the process of the four sections of teaching and learning and the series of lessons as a whole unit.

The following chart shows how both grade 3 and 4 students could experience Zurashi in the whole unit. Comparatively, the beginning and end of each unit need more direct and intensive teaching time than other stages in the teaching plan. When preparing the plan, the teacher should carefully consider and decide upon which assessment criteria to employ.

Grade 3				Grade 4					
	Assessment			t			Assessment		
Contents	Criteria				Contents		Crit	eria	
	1	2	3	4			2	3	4
1 - Beginning of Unit I	~	~			6 - Unit I		✓		
2 - Unit I		\checkmark		\checkmark	7 - End of Unit I			\checkmark	
3 - Unit I			~		1 - Beginning of Unit II	~			
4 – End of Unit I			~		2 - Unit II		~		~
1 - Beginning of Unit II	~		~		3 - Unit II			~	
2 - Unit II		~			4 - Unit II		✓		
3 - Unit II			✓		5 - End of Unit II	✓		✓	

Chart 2. Zurashi and Assessment Criteria in Unit Teaching

Assessment Criteria: 1 - Interest/Willingness/Attitude, 2 - Thinking/Judgement/Expression,

3 - Skills, 4 - Knowledge/Understanding

1.3 Designing a One-hour Lesson Plan

Based on a framework with four sections of teaching and learning, the degree of the teacher's involvement and distribution of time should be considered when producing a one-hour lesson plan, including the points below.

- Lesson objective and assessment criteria should be prepared.
- Time for direct teaching and for student self-learning should be clearly separated and combined in the lesson plan.
- The students' self-learning process should be considered and any materials necessary to it should be produced.

Grade 3			Grade 4
Teaching-Learning Process	Teacher's	Movement	Teaching-Learning Process
Section A Recognizing Problems	Direct Teaching	Indirect Teaching	Section D+ Familiarization and Application (previous lesson)
Section B Solving Problems	Indirect Teaching	Direct Teaching	Section A Recognizing Problems
Section C Complete Understanding	Direct Teaching	Indirect Teaching	Section B Solving Problems
Section D Familiarization and Application	Indirect Teaching	Direct Teaching	Section C Complete Understanding

Chart 3. Framework with Four Sections of Teaching-Learning Process

Before planning lessons, it's important to consider what teaching style would be effective to achieve the objectives of each lesson and/or unit.



2. Enriched Assessment Activities

2.1 Basic Issues for Assessment of Learning Achievement

To produce lessons that all students understand and can participate in, it's important to assess the achievement against assessment criteria and use the results to improve teaching methods. The assessment activities also give suggestions to review the quality of the learning and teaching process and to enrich teaching techniques for each individual student.

2.2 Period of Assessment

Teachers can conduct several types of assessment to evaluate students' levels of understanding at specific periods of time by preparing paper tests.

- <u>Pre-Assessment</u>: checking prior understanding and degree of interest at the beginning of the lesson and/or unit.
- Formative Assessment: checking understanding during the lesson process.
- <u>Summative Assessment</u>: checking understanding after the lesson or at the end of the unit.
- 2.3 Procedure of Assessment

The following steps are the standard procedure to assess the attainment of students.

- 1) Set assessment objectives
- 2) Clarify assessment elements
- 3) Choose setting and opportunity for assessment
- 4) List and consider assessment tools
- 5) Collect, record and analyze assessment results
- 6) Give assessment results to students



<What are Assessment Criteria?> Assessment criteria are the standards to judge progress and to achieve the objectives in the government curriculum. The objectives are specifically described as the students' learning attainment not only in each subject but also in each field of study and individual lesson content.

2.4 The Four Elements and Aims

In the learning and teaching process, it is important to grasp progress students make toward objectives in each subject. Furthermore, assessment criteria should be set up to evaluate learning progress with the four elements below and utilized to support individual students.

Assessment Criteria	Contents of Assessment
1. Interest/ Willingness/	Does the student maintain interest in the content of each subject and
Attitude	acquire the willingness and attitude to consider the themes by
	him/herself?
2. Thinking/ Judgement/	Does the student acquire the abilities of thinking, judgement, and
Expression	expression to solve questions through the application of knowledge
	and skills in each subject?
3. Skills	Does the student acquire the skills taught in each subject?
4. Knowledge/ Understanding	Has the student gained the knowledge and understanding of the
	important concepts taught in each subject?

Chart 4. Four Elements of Assessment Criteria

From "Improving and Enriching Assessment Criteria" (Hokkaido Pref. Board of Education, March 2012)



2.5 Examples for Assessment Elements and Aims

When the four elements of Assessment Criteria are written in lesson plans, they can be arranged into appropriate categories according to each subject as shown below.

Interest, willingness, and attitude toward the Japanese language	Speaking and listening abilities	Writing ability	Reading ability	Knowledge and understanding about the Japanese language
Willing to improve communication ability in the Japanese language and develop an interest and love for it.	Discussing purposely on set targets and development of individual ideas.	Writing purposely on set targets and development of individual ideas.	Understanding the meaning of written sentences and stories and development of individual ideas.	Writing characters and sentences correctly and understanding and utilizing traditional lingual culture, features, and rules.

Chart 5. Example of Assessment Criteria for "Japanese language"

Chart 6. Example of Assessment Criteria for "Mathematics"

Interest, willingness and	Mathematical thinking	Skills about Quantity	Knowledge and
attitude toward		and Shapes	understanding about
Mathematics			Quantity and Shapes
Developing interest in	Understanding the	Acquiring skills in	Having a deep
mathematics, realizing the	relationship between daily	mathematical expressions	understanding of Quantity
importance and pleasure	life and mathematics,	and processes regarding	and Shapes and their
of the activities, and	considering mathematics	Quantity and Shapes.	meanings and
willingness to apply	at a deeper level,		characteristics.
knowledge gained to daily	expressing views logically		
life and further lessons.	in order to acquire the		
	basic ability of		
	mathematical thinking.		

2.6 Devised Methods of Assessment

1) Importance of Observation by Teachers

To assess the learning capacity and abilities acquired by each student and how much his/her attitude and potential have improved and increased, observation of the student's expressions, speech, and behavior is necessary.

<Observation Points (Example) >

- ① Does the student think about points of confusion and attempt to solve them enthusiastically?
- ② Does the Student summarize the problems they have solved and express them in their own way?
- ③ In group learning sessions, do students cooperate to confirm and clarify their own ideas and thoughts?
- (4) Does the student apply what they have learnt and show motivation for new challenges and learning?

2) Self-Assessment and Mutual Assessment

To encourage students to learn continuously, they need to have opportunities to review what they have learned by themselves. Self-assessment to improve their learning process and mutual assessment to receive praise and learn in groups are recommended.

	Means of Self-Assessment		Considerations
-	Writing (notes, essays, etc.)	-	Let them set own targets
-	Checklists	-	Let them assess aspects of their emotions
-	Assessing own work (newspaper,	-	Let them gain awareness and new
	Kamishibai, etc.)		challenges
-	Physical expression (dramatization)	-	Let them think reasons after receiving
-	Discussion		assessment results

Chart 7. Self-Assessment

2.7 Assessment in Small Classes

It is important to understand that there are always pros and cons when the teaching-learning process is assessed in small classes, as shown Chart 8.

	Advantages		Disadvantages
-	Advantages Possible to watch each student and to assess according to each objective Possible to assess each student holistically Possible to conduct assessment easily and to set up multiple formative assessments Ease of follow-up teaching	-	Disadvantages Difficult to assess some content if it needs to be supported by mutual cooperation with a group The results of assessments conducted but may be inaccurate due to the teachers' unconscious bias Ambiguity by subjectivity Teachers often create an expectation of what a student may achieve and fail to see the need for assessment.

Chart 8.	Features in	Assessing	a Small	Class
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2.8 Assessment to Further Develop Each Strength

In multi-grade classes, one strength is that a teacher can easily understand each student's learning progress due to the small-size of the class. However, the assessment tends to be one-sided sometimes because of a teacher's subjective views and/or difficulties caused by the period of indirect teaching. It is important to assess performance against well-prepared objectives and to reflect on the results to improve the teaching process.

Basically, the assessment is conducted in accordance with standard objectives defined by the government curriculum. The following three considerations should be followed in the process of actual assessments.

Considerations for Assessment

- 1. <u>Defining Objective</u>: Define each teaching objective in every unit
- 2. <u>Setting Assessment Criteria</u>: Indicate detailed achievement criteria to measure students' performance.
- 3. <u>Improving Teaching</u>: Analyze assessment results to improve teaching approach.

2.9 Enriched Assessment Methods

The following methods are effective in enriching assessment process.

Assessment Criteria	Assessment Method
1. Interest/ Willingness/ Attitude	speech and attitude during lessons, worksheets, reports,
	presentation etc.
2. Thinking/ Judgement/ Expression	worksheets, reports, note-taking
3. Skills	worksheets, note-taking, drawing and painting etc.
4. Knowledge/ Understanding	written examinations, worksheets

1) Assessment by Questioning

It is important to be clear about what aspects should be assessed in which phases of the learning process. Specific questions will contribute to draw effective answers for the assessment. Students who often raise their hand or speak are not always highly interested and willing. A teacher should pay attention to the student's thinking process and speaking content and assess accurately according to the lesson objective.



2) Assessment by Worksheets

These records will also contribute to personal/closed assessment to understand the development of each student in a specific time period.

3) Assessment by Written Examinations

Written examinations are commonly employed for assessment; however, it is important to note that the results won't provide an entire picture of the student's learning performance.

<Relevancy between Teaching and Assessing Process> The assessment of student's performance should be relevant to review the lesson processes and methods and to improve teaching techniques.



2.10 Considerations of Assessment in Lesson Plan

The following points should be considered when producing a lesson plan.

- Which phases in the learning process need to be assessed?
- What aspects do students need to focus on?
- Which method needs to be used for assessment?
- What help needs to be provided for students who fall behind in the class?

Chart 9. Example Assessment Items in a Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 2

Subject: Japanese Language

Name of Unit: Read the series of stories and introduce what the student likes about the stories to friends. Lesson Objective: To introduce what a student likes about the story, "Letters" and make some connections with other stories

in the same series. (Reading)

Lesson Assessment Standard: To be able to introduce what a student likes about the story, "Letters" and make some connections with other stories in the same series. (Ability to read)

Chart 9. Example Assessment Items in Lesson Plan (Continued)

	Grad	e 2			
Process	O <u>Student's Role</u>	 ◇ <u>Teacher's Considerations</u> ■ Assessment Standard □ Means of Assessment ▲ Help students in need 	Tea Mov	cher's ement	It is important to understand
Reco	O Understand the problem/theme based on the unit lesson plan (confirming language activities throughout the unit).	Check the student's understanding of the story and how they are introducing scenes and illustrations, actions of characters, comparisons with other stories in the same series	Γ		the relationship between the lesson objectives and the lesson assessment standard.
Section A ecognizing Problems	 O Confirm what content should be written on an introduction card. -Favorite scene -Reason the student likes it (Describing scenes and illustrations, actions of characters, comparisons with other stories in the same series.) 	Elicit reasons why students may like "Letters" or other stories in the series.	birect Teaching		<lesson assessment<br="">Standard> Students' almost achieving the lesson objective would be able to Introduce what they like about "Letters" while describing common points in other stories and similar events and dialogue made by the</lesson>
Section B Solving Problems	 Write an introduction card The student looks for a point they like and reason why while reading "Letters" and then write the introduction card. Mention the contents of other stories in the same series as well. 		Indirect Teaching	Direct Teaching	characters such as "Gama-kun" and "Kaeru- kun". <example a="" of="" student's<br="">Response> "Kaeru-kun wrote a letter to Gama-kun and they waited for letters from</example>
Section C Complete Understanding	 Introduce the favorite scenes from "Letters" to each other while showing the introduction cards. 	 te scenes from er while tion cards. C Emphasize examples and describe together with action and dialogue from other stories. <assessment></assessment> To be able to introduce what the student likes about the story, "Letters" and make some connections with other stories in the same series. (Ability to read) □ Introduction card, presentation ▲ Let the students pay attention to the characters and scenes in "Letters" and other stories in the same series as well. 			 waited for fetters from each other with happy feelings. That's my favorite part. Other stories also have many scenes where Kaeru-kun is kind to Gama-kun." This is an example of how to support children who fall behind in class. At this moment, a teacher must speak in a creative way to motivate students receiving advice.

3. Designing a Unit Teaching Plan

3.1 Setting a Unit Objective

A unit teaching plan is created by including contents from the annual teaching plan and prepared to facilitate teaching opportunities.

While considering the learning capacity and ability of the students, the unit objective is set up based on the objectives and contents of each subject written in the Government's Curriculum. It is important that it is also based on the students' actual situation and the progression of the teaching contents.

3.2 Setting Unit Assessment Criteria

The assessment standard should be set up clearly by imagining specific and ideal conditions which enable the teaching objectives to be achieved.

3.3 Designing a Unit Teaching Plan - Mathematics

Unit Teaching Plan of Grade 3 - Mathematics								Unit Teaching Pl - Mathem	an of Grade	24			
			•	6606	cm o	nt					6606	cm o	nt
Lesson Process	Objectives	Themes	1	Crit	teria	4	Lesson Process	Objectives	Themes	1	Crit	teria	4
1 2	Understand multiplication of a double-digit number × a single-digit number in figures.	Think how to calculate 23×3.	~	~		✓	1 2	Understand the meaning of degrees as angles when rotated, the function and usage of a protractor, and "°" as a symbol to indicate degrees.	Check sizes of degrees.	~			~
3	Understand multiplication of a double-digit number × a single - digit number in figures by moving up to the tens digit.	Think how to calculate 26×3.		~			3	Understand how to calculate angles using a right angle. Understand additivity of degrees by measuring the degrees of triangles.	Think how to indicate and measure degrees.			~	
4	Understand multiplication of a double-digit number × a single-digit number in figures by moving up to the hundreds digit.	Think how to calculate 42×3.		~			4 -Lessons at the same time	Be able to think how to measure degrees of more than 180°.	Measure degrees larger than 180°.		~		
5	Understand multiplication of a double-digit number × a single - digit number in figures by dealing with 0 (zero) in the process.	Think how to calculate 65 ×3.			~		5	Be able to draw angles.	Draw angles using a protractor.			~	
6 -Lessons at the same time	Understand multiplication of a triple-digit number × a single - digit number in figures.	Think how to calculate 312 ×3.		~			6	Be able to draw triangles.	Think how to draw the same shaped triangles.		~		
7	Understand multiplication of a triple-digit number × a single - digit number in figures by moving up to the tens/hundreds digit.	Think how to calculate 253 ×3.		~	~		7	Be able to check the size of degrees using a protractor.	Check the size of degrees of things around us.	~			
8	Understand multiplication of a triple-digit number \times a single - digit number in figures by moving up to the thousands digit and dealing with 0(zero) in the process.	Think how to calculate 423 ×3. Think how to calculate 302 ×8.			~	>	8	Summarize this unit.	Understand deeply through exercises.			~	
9	rstand the relationship of quantities by using tape diagrams and understand the concept of "- times (×)" applied to division and multiplication.	Use lengths of tape A and B to show the concept of "-times (×)".		~									
10	Be able to do mental multiplication.	Think how to multiply 23× 4 mentally.		~									
11	Exercise key points of this units.	Understand deeply through exercises.			~								
12	Summarize this unit.	Understand deeply through exercises.			~								

Chart 10. Example of a Unit Teaching Plan ("Mathematics" at Primary Level)

Lesson Plan of Grade 3-Mathematics

1. Name of the Unit

-Multiplication by calculation with figures (Vol.1).

2. Unit Objectives

-To know to how to calculate "a double-digit number/triple-digit number \times a single-digit number" in figures based on methods such as a multiplication table.

-To master multiplication of "a double-digit number/triple-digit number \times a single-digit number".

- To master simple mental multiplication.

3. Unit Assessment Standard

(1) Interest/willingness/attitude to Mathematics -To understand it's possible to calculate "a double-digit number/triple-digit number \times a single-digit number" based on simple methods learned previously.

(2) Mathematical ways of thinking

-To understand "a double-digit number/tripledigit number \times a single-digit number" in figures and formulas based on simple methods learned previously.

(3) Skills about quantity and figures

-To master multiplication of "a double-digit number/triple-digit number × a single-digit number".

(4) Knowledge/Understanding about quantity and figures

-To understand how to calculate "a double-digit number/triple-digit number \times a single-digit number" in figures.

<u>4. About the Unit</u> -Omitted.

-Omitted.

5. System of the Unit -Omitted.

<u>6. Actual Situation of Students</u> -Omitted.

Remarks:

The general data items for No. 4-6 are not described here due to the priority of contents and the limited number of pages in this lesson plan.

Lesson Plan of Grade 4-Mathematics

1. Name of the Unit

- Angles.

2. Unit Objectives

-To understand angles as results of rotation and the meaning of angle sizes and the units and measurements used.

-To understand units to show angles,

"degrees".

-To be able to measure and draw angles using a protractor.

3. Unit Assessment Standard

(1) Interest/willingness/attitude to Mathematics

-To pay attention to angles and try to compare angle sizes to something familiar in students' daily lives.

(2) Mathematical ways of thinking

-To think of a total angle size based on smaller units by illustrating it with numbers.

(3) Skills about quantity and figures

-To master how to measure angles and draw angles using a protractor.

(4) Knowledge/Understanding about quantity and figures

-To understand angles as rotated areas and the meanings of angle sizes, unit degree (°), and measurement. To have a good understanding of angles.

<u>4. About the Unit</u> -Omitted.

5. System of the Unit -Omitted.

<u>6. Actual Situation of Students</u> -Omitted.

Remarks:

The general data items for No. 4-6 are not described here due to the priority of contents and the limited number of pages in this lesson plan.

4. Clarification of Learning Stages

4.1 Systematic Ways to Learn

In multi-grade schools, the students are expected to master systematic learning methods during indirect teaching periods in the grade-based teaching approach. The learning stages should be clarified throughout the 6-year period in elementary school (3 years in junior high school) to achieve school education objectives together. Based on the below chart, teachers need to understand the characteristics of learning stages for each grade in the same classroom.

Description	Grade 1-2	Grade 3-4	Grade 5-6
Image of the ideal	To be able to keep promises for	To be able to know how to	To be able to make a learning
student	the classes and learn cheerfully.	facilitate the learning process and	schedule by him/herself and learn
		learn ambitiously.	independently.
Preparation to	To be able to prepare learning	To be able to review or prepare	To be able to understand the summary
Learn	materials for the next lesson.	for lessons voluntarily at the	of the previous lesson and to confirm
		appropriate time.	their own learning themes.
Presentation	To be able to respond and	To be able to present briefly with	To be able to present logically and
Objectives	present words until the ending	the appropriate volume and speed	simply.
	when appointed.	of speech.	
Listening to Others	To be able to listen to a speaker	To be able to ask some questions	To be able to listen to another's point
	until they finish while paying	and listen carefully.	of view and to contrast the differences
	attention to him/her.		with their own.
Discussion	To be able to present to each	To be able to listen to another's	To be able to compare their own point
Objectives	other facilitated by the teacher.	presentation carefully and ask	of view with other's and to
		questions.	summarize the results of discussion.

Chart 11. Characteristics of Learning Stages 1

Chart 12. Characteristics of Learning Stages 2



4.2 Development of Speaking Skills

The Grade Based Teaching Approach has comparatively much more time for indirect teaching. Therefore, fulfilling the indirect teaching time will lead to deepening learning using presentation, listening, and discussion activities without teachers. It's important to teach and consider how speaking and listening skills should be developed through the entire period of 6 years in elementary school (3 years in junior high school).

	Model Speech	How to Listen		
6	- "My answer is"	-Turn towards a person and listen to him/her.		
Grad	"My answer is the same as it." "My answer is close to it." "I	-Listen to a person and compare how his/her idea		
wer ade le 1-	want to add to it."	is similar or different from their own idea.		
2)	- "I have another answer."	-Listen to a person's speech until they finish.		
N	- "I think, the answer is because it is"	-Turn towards a person and listen to him/her.		
(Gr	- "My answer is the same as, but part of it is different."	-Listen to a person and compare how his or her		
lle G ade	- "I have a question to How did you get it?"	idea is similar or different from own idea.		
frad 3-4)	- "I would like to add some ideas."	-Listen to a person's speech until they finish.		
e	- "Is the idea of like?"			
	- "My idea is The reason why I think like that is"	-Turn towards a person and listen to him/her.		
(C	- "My answer is the same as, but part of it is different."	-Listen to a person and compare how his/her idea		
ther	- "I have a question to How did you get it?"	is similar or different from own idea.		
le 5-	- "I would like to add some ideas."	-Listen to a person's speech until they finish.		
6) 6)	- "Is the idea of like?"	-Make clear when they understand or don't		
		understand something.		

Chart 13. How to Speak Up/Listen in Classroom

4.3 Lesson Progress Employing a Student Guide

In each step of the learning process, students need to understand how to make progress in the lesson by themselves and support should be provided by a student guide to facilitate each activity.

Learning Process	The Role of the Student Guide
Recognizing Problems	"Please read out today's problem." "What do you know about this problem, what do you
(Understanding Problems or	want to pursue?" "Today's problem is about" "Please work on this (exercise) until
Themes)	(time)."
Solving Problems	"Please think and solve the problem individually."
(Solve Them Individually)	- Look at the textbook and materials, compare with previous lessons, think of various
	ideas, think about how to meet expectations, think and consider other viewpoints
Complete Understanding	"Please share and discuss your results in a group." " (name), please share what your
(Solve Problems Collectively and	group understands about the problem." "Do you have any questions/comments on the
Summarize)	ideas from (name)?" "Let's summarize what we have learnt."
Familiarization and Application	"Please work on this exercise of until (time)." "Let's check the answers."
(Exercise)	"The homework is"

Chart 14. Lesson Progression with a Student Guide (Grade 5-6 Students)

Remarks: The words in parentheses in the Learning Process are descriptions from the viewpoint of the problem-solving approach.

5. Enriched Indirect Teaching

5.1 Student Guides and Student Leaders

To create effective indirect teaching, two major roles are usually taken by the students. Student guides can be described as assistants for the teacher or class representatives who take an important role in preparing, facilitating, and controlling indirect learning. On the other hand, student leaders are like class announcers whose duty is to let all other students in the class know the process or stages of the lesson. It is suggested that students take turns to be the leader. The details are described as follows.

5.2 Learning with Student Guides

Learning with a student guide is used to increase effectiveness during periods of indirect teaching in small groups. According to a facilitation plan prepared under supervision by the teacher, selected student guides will lead some sessions mainly in the period of indirect teaching.



Chart 15. Simultaneous and Separate Teaching

5.3 Aims and Roles of Student Guides

Learning with a student guide aims to facilitate the indirect teaching process effectively and efficiently and increase the quality of indirect teaching by developing an independent learning attitude. The major roles are described below.

Roles	Activities (Examples)
1. Preparation for Lessons	-Prepare balls for a physical education class.
	-Distribute papers in an art class.
2. Facilitation of Learning	-Conduct learning sessions following instruction
Sessions	cards and a facilitation plan.
3. Following the Rules	-Arrange the order of activities and caution students
	who misbehave.

Chart 16. Roles of Student Guides

<How to select guides> At first, it's easy to select a guide if you have students with leadership qualities. Later, it's desirable to train all students to take the role of the guide.



Source: National Federation for Research on Rural Education (1995), "Guidebook for Rural Education".

5.4 Types of Learning with Student Guides

When learning with guides, there are three teaching stages, the primary stage (Grade 1-2), the middle stage (Grade 3-4), and the Upper stage (Grade 5-6) according to the student's development. The process starts with learning with cards, then moves to learning the basics and learning to step-up, and finally shifts to learning through discussion.

Types	Key Points to Teach	
1. Learning with	This is applicable to practice letters and concepts of numbers. With	
Cards	instructions with cards, students acquire the steps to learn and basic skills by	Primary stage
	being led by guides in the learning group.	Grade 1-2
2. Learning the	This is to learn, practice and familiarize basic knowledge and skills facilitated	
Basics	by a guide. The quality of the learning group is developed if the	
	quick/accurate learners start encouraging the slow learners.	
3.Learning to	Students can practice to make questions/answers by themselves for	Middle stage
Step-Up	familiarization and application.	Grade 3-4
	Communicative speeches from each student become active and expanded for	
	more the qualified group.	
4. Learning with	Based on the lessons previously learnt, there is a focus on creating and	
Discussion	gaining new concepts through discussion. Through the training of speakers	Upper stage
	and listeners as well, the students develop ways to integrate previous	Grade 5-6
	knowledge with new information, and/or their own ideas to other student's	
	ones.	

Chart 17. Types of Learning with Student Guides

5.5 Learning with Student Leaders

Learning with student leaders is a way to conduct lessons with leaders chosen from the students. The major roles of leaders are described below.

Chart 18. Major Roles of Student Leaders

- 1. Follow the prepared flow of the learning.
- 2. Ask students to contribute and give suggestions on simple matters.
- 3. Set times for self-learning and group-learning.
- 4. Summarize comments/ideas of the learning groups.

< Teacher Replacements >

It is important for motivating students that they solve questions by themselves because it's their lesson. For that, teachers need to provide encouragement, effective hints or clues, and appropriate further questions according to their



5.6 Considerations when Conducting Learning with Student Leaders

There are some points to consider when conducting teaching/learning activities such as:

- Not to fix the role of the leader to the same student every lesson, students should take turns doing it.
- The student needs to understand role of the leader and how to conduct the lesson.

5.7 Procedure of Learning with Student Leaders

The chart below is an example of the learning procedure in the subject of Japanese language for the highergrade students. Most of basic speech by the leader and group members could be used in other subjects.

Chart 19. Learning Procedure in Japanese Language (for Grade 5-6)

	A leader		All group members
1.	Are you ready to learn?	1.	Yes, we are ready.
2.	Tell (me) what you learned in the previous	2.	We learned about
	lesson?	3.	It's
3.	What are we going to learn today?	4.	Yes. I'll read now.
4.	(name), please read out the scene.	5.	Today we'll learn about
5.	Tell (me) what are we learning today.	6.	(Students pay attention to the teacher)
6.	Teacher, tell us about today's lesson.		
7.	Learn individually for minutes.	7.	(Learning by themselves)
8.	Discuss it in your group for minutes.	8.	(Moving desks/chairs and discussing)
9.	Stop discussing in your group. To learn more	9.	(Stopping and moving desks/chairs)
	about the theme, share what you discussed		- He/she did He/she said
	with all.		- I think that
	- Talk about what the main character did.		- It's because it's written like The book
	- Explain your ideas about theme.		said
	- Explain the reason why you think so.		
10.	We'll summarize today's lesson.	10.	(Summarizing)
	- What did you find?		- I found that
	- Write what you learned in your notebook.		- The students write something in their
	- Do exercise on a worksheet.		notebooks.
11.	This is the end of today's lesson.		- The students complete the worksheet.
		11.	OK, thank you.

5.8 Connecting Indirect Teaching to Direct Teaching (Before the Lesson)

The period of indirect teaching is regarded not only as learning time by students but also as an opportunity to develop their ability of self-learning. Therefore, a teacher's approach during direct teaching is very important for the students to be able to manage their indirect teaching time by themselves.

1) Unit Lesson Plan

To achieve unit objectives well, the unit lesson plan should be written considering the school characteristics and the current situation of the students.

2) Understand the Current Situation of Students

To achieve the lesson objectives, the lesson plan should be prepared based on students' level of understanding and an estimation of their current learning capacity.

<Example>

-A (student) is interested in the next lesson, so it's better to let him work on the practical contents. -For B (student), a slow learner, hint cards should be prepared for him.

-It'll be effective to use Internet for C (student) because she is good at typing.

<Take advantage of small classes> It is easy to understand the learning situation of each student thoroughly and prepare each learning activity for indirect teaching time.



3) Preparation to Assist Active Learning

Preparation of educational materials to assist each student's active learning and consideration of individual teaching according to their abilities should be done before the lesson.

Chart 20. Preparation and Considerations for Learning/Teaching

<Preparation to Assist Learning Activity of Each Student>

- Practical and supplemental questions
- Hint cards
- Teaching tools such as math equipment
- Dictionaries and reference books
- Small white boards and presentation boards
- Computers

<Considerations for Each Student>

- What are the suggestions when students complete their exercises?
- What are the actions when students are stuck with exercises?
- Are students allowed to work on exercises out of the classroom?
- Which plates/sheets/boards etc. do student's use to summarize their answers?
- Do they need to think by themselves or in groups?
- How do they share their answers?

- 5.9 Connecting Indirect Teaching to Direct Teaching (During the Lesson)
- 1) The Step of "Recognizing Problems"
 - ① Presentation of Problems and Setting the Theme
 - Think out ways to present problems in order to enhance motivation (e.g. connecting with them to previous learning, or showing them related items to inspire interest).
 - Clarify the learning themes of the lesson. They may be pursued by including the students' curiosities and interests.
 - ② Connection to "Solving Problems"
 - Show the steps to learn through a poster/notice in the classroom and a learning procedure manual.
 - Prepare the educational assistance materials/tools for the learning such as dictionaries, math tool box, whiteboard, small plates, hint cards, computers, and exercise sheets (for simple, advanced, and supplemental questions).

Chart 21-1. Direct Teaching Process: "Recognizing Problems"

<Example: Decimal Multiplication (Grade 4)>

• Objective: To be able to explain how to calculate "decimal x integer".

Process	Learning Activities	Considerations
	1. Presentation of Problem	
	Yumi calculated like below. Is it correct? $0.3 \times 4 = 0.12$	
Recognizing Problems	 2. Prediction "Correct" or "Incorrect" 3. Let's think about it It's correct because 3 x 4 = 12. - It's strange that four times of 0.3 is less than 0.3. - It'll be 1.2 if it was calculated correctly. 4.Presetation of Theme Let's explain how to calculate 0.3 x 4. 5. Think how to explain the theme. By chart/picture By words 	-Encourage by showing what has been learnt. -Give a way to solve the problem. -Show viewpoints to think about and discuss.
	by forman	

-You are advised not to take much time for the "Recognizing Problems" step. To get students to focus in quickly, the problems should be well presented and compared to the previous lessons by saying, "let's review a moment".

-You can connect with active learning during indirect teaching by helping them understand the methods to pursue the themes.



- 2) The Steps of "Complete Understanding" to "Familiarization and Application"
 - ① Enriched Discussion
 - Focus on the similar and different viewpoints from each student's presentation.
 - 2 Generalizing Today's Learning
 - Confirm if it is possible to apply the result to others by showing similar examples.
 - ③ Setting the exercises according to each student's ability
 - Prepare exercise sheets for similar, advanced, and supplemental questions.

Chart 21-2. Direct Teaching Process: "Complete Understanding"

<Example: Decimal Multiplication (Grade 4)>

• Objective: To be able to explain how to calculate "decimal x integer".



6. Preparing the Learning Environment

6.1 Preparation of the Classroom Environment

In multigrade teaching, a well-prepared classroom environment is essential to encourage students' active, self-learning including:

- displaying the learned contents for reference,
- providing useful materials such as cubes and ohajiki (flat glass marbles) etc.,
- placing computers in an appropriate space, and
- arranging a space for activities including a working table.



Math exercise sheets and cards for counting 10 and 100.



Chart 22. Room Arrangement for Multigrade Class (Example)

6.2 Desks/Chairs Layout according to Learning Content

Multigrade teaching requires an appropriate layout of desks/chairs since each grade learns different contents in the same classroom. Student numbers and subject contents are also considered in the arrangement.

The "L" shaped desk layout



6.3 Arranging the Blackboards

There are several layouts which are beneficial to various situations. Characteristics of the six examples in the chart are described below.



Chart 23. Six Types of Blackboard Arrangement

7. Writing on Blackboard Reflecting Students' Thoughts

7.1 The Role of Writing on the Blackboard

Writing on the blackboard creates a record to show how deeply the students thought about the learning themes during a lesson period. Therefore, it should concisely outline the important content for students, including themes, students' comments, summary, and exercises according to the learning process. The Hokkaido Prefectural Board of Education mentions the roles of writing on the blackboard as below.

<Roles of Writing on the Blackboard>

- Facilitate students' concentration and thoughts by specifying the learning objectives and themes and presenting the learning resources.
- Draw out and expand students' thoughts, questions, awareness, and ideas
- Organize students' thoughts and summarize and familiarize the learning results.

Source: "School Education Guidebook – for New Teachers" (2015)

7.2 Examples of Writing on the Blackboard

Chart 24-1. Example of Writing on the Blackboard - Mathematics

<Example 1. "Multiplication by calculation with figures" in Mathematics for Grade 3>



Enhance motivation and awareness of content by clarifying the "theme" and predicting the result. Each student explains how to get the result using an opaque projector and compare solutions with each other.

Chart 24-2. Example of Writing on the Blackboard (Translation)

May 2	Multiplicat (2)	ion b	y calo	culation	with	figures								
Problem	We serve 12	sheet	ts of O	RIGAM	I pape	rs for		12 x 23	Let's f	figure ou	ıt hov	v to ca	lculate	e it.
★3	each. When	we ha	ive 23	member	s, how	many		\sim	paper:	0	12	240	?	pcs.
	papers do we	e need	l in tot	al?				\circ	member	: 0	1	20	23	per.
				nlee	ones	12x	20		-					
	Formula 1	Formula 12 x 23 = $\begin{bmatrix} place is \\ return (0) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ sum \end{bmatrix}$								12 x 2	3 = 2	76		
		not zero (0). 240 mary									\mathbf{M}			
Theme	Let's figu	re oi	it hov	v to ca	lculat	te it.		12	Result	20	3			12
							-	x 23		12x20	=24	40	х	23
	paper:	0	12	240	?	(pcs.)		36		12x 3	=3	6		36
Prediction								24			2	76	2	40
	member:	0	1	20	23	(per.)		1. Multiply the					2	76
								ones & tens places				ĺ		
								separately.						
								2. Do addition.						

<Contents of blackboard & screen>

Chart 25. Example of Writing on the Blackboard-Japanese Language

<Example 2. "Gongitsune (Story about a fox)" in Japanese language for Grade 4>



It is good to put illustrations, cards, and other materials on the blackboard to deepen what students read in the story and include emotions.

8. Application of Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

8.1 Significance of Activities with ICT in Subject Teaching

In teaching each subject, the effective use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) can help make a deeper understanding among students and realize teaching objectives. Furthermore, it is also effective for students to use ICT practically by themselves in fulfilling linguistic activities.

8.2 List of ICT Devices in Teaching Subjects

<Output Devices> Projector, Large display (TV), Electronic blackboard, etc.

<Input Devices> Opaque projector, Digital textbook, Tablet, Digital contents, etc.

8.3 Effective Examples of ICT Devices in Classroom

<Electronic Blackboard>



Make data larger than a computer monitor.



Add comments to the displayed data.



Insert answers directly onto the display.

<Opaque Projector>



Show textbook or documents on a larger screen.





Enlarge to explain how to use

Students can explain with notebooks and exercise sheets on a large scale.



Teach by enlarging actual play or activities.



8.4 Teaching Mathematics with ICT

The several pictures below are taken in a mathematics class for Grade 1 (G1) and Grade 2 (G2) students. The names of their on-going units are "Addition" for G1 and "Triangles and Squares" for G2. Both students get used to handling tablets to work on exercises and/or explaining an enlarged picture taken from their own notebook.



A G1 student exercise - calculation with a tablet.



G2 student is taking a picture of their own notebook with a tablet.



picture taken with a tablet.

Chart 26. Points for Effective Use ICT in Multigrade Classes

To conduct multigrade teaching and learning, it is important to set up an environment where the students can learn actively. Especially, classrooms equipped with ICT devices such as computers, tablets, and an electronic blackboard will assist students when visualizing and expressing their thoughts.



9. Teaching Note-taking Reflecting Students' Thoughts

9.1 Essential Points to Teach Concerning Note-taking

A notebook is generally prepared to keep a specific record of the learning path, including new findings, ideas/thoughts, and information studied by each student. Below are some suggestions for effective teaching of note-taking.

Chart 27. Points to Consider in Teaching Note-taking

- Set aside time to write records such as putting ideas in order, further study, and interpreting results.
- Consider the structure of the writing on the blackboard to encourage the students to write in their notebooks effectively and in a well-structured manner.
- Encourage students with written comments by checking their notebooks often.

Source: The Hokkaido Prefectural Board of Education (2015), "School Education Guidebook - for New Teachers".



Chart 28. Framework of Writing in Notebooks

Source: The Hokkaido Education Research Institute (July, 2013), "Guide for Improving Elementary School Curriculum".

9.2 Example of Note-taking



Chart 29-1. Example of Note-taking by a Student

Source: The Hokkaido Education Research Institute (March, 2013), "Productive Instructions on Note-taking towards Complete Understanding for Learning Contents".



Chart 29-2. Example of Note-taking by a Student (Translation)

10. One-hour Lesson Plan-Mathematics

■ Lesson Plan(Grade 3) (6 th of 12 lessons)	Lesson Plan (Grade 4) (4 th of 8 lessons)
 Objective for the Lesson Understand multiplication of the hundreds place × the ones place in figures. 	 Objective for the Lesson Be able to think how to measure degrees of more than 180°.
 Evaluation Standards Think how to calculate the hundreds place × the ones place based on a calculation of the ten's place × the one's place. 	 Evaluation Standards Think how to measure degrees bigger than 180° by additivity of degrees.
3) The lesson procedure is below.	3) The lesson procedure is below.

	Gra	de 3		Grade 4			
	Students' Activities	Teacher's Activities			Students' Activities	Teacher's Activities	
		incl. Evaluation				incl. Evaluation	
Familiarization and Application	 Work on exercises -Textbook -Exercise sheets 	-Check answers together with a student leader.	Indirect Teaching	Direct Teaching	 1.Understand a question A How many degrees is A? 2.Prediction -24° -60° -More than 180° -Unable to predict 3. Recognize Problems Think how to me bigger than 180° 4. Think by each student's self. -Check methods to get an answer. -Draw auxiliary lines. -Flip over the protractor. 	-Distribute printed materials. -Understand that it's bigger than 180°. -Check how to use a protractor if necessary.	Recognizing Problems
Recognizing Problems	2. Understand a question Mika bought 3 meters of ribl meter. How much did she pa	Understand a question Mika bought 3 meters of ribbon which cost 312 yen per meter. How much did she pay for it?		Indirect Teaching	5. Each student thinks by themselves.-Draw auxiliary lines in many ways.-Focus on 180°.	-Let them focus on the standard degrees such as 90°, 180°, and 270°.	Solving Problems

Recognizing Problems	 3. Prediction -About 1,000 yen -About 900 yen -936 yen -The Formula will be 312 × 3 -The Multiplier is a three-digit number. 4. Recognize problems Let's think how to c -Tape diagram -Calculate by each place -Calculate in figures 	 -Let them think about what formula should be used. -Check differences from content previously studied. -Let them predict to solve. alculate 312 × 3. 	Direct Teaching	Indirect Teaching	-Prepare to present the idea to others.	-Let them think of other ideas if any students complete the task quickly.	Solving Problems
Solving Problems	 5. Each student thinks by themselves. -Write down their own ideas in their notebooks. -Prepare to present the idea to others. 	-Let them think about how to make a presentation and/or other ideas if any students complete the task quickly.	Indirect Teaching	Direct Teaching	 6. Solve problems as a group 1) Find a solution based on 180°+ how many degrees? 2) Find a solution based on 360°- how many degrees? 3) Find a solution based on 90°? 3) Find a solution based on 90°? 270°-□ Indicate if any similar ideas are presented. 7. Summary Methods to measure degree Find how many degrees to Find how many degrees to a solution based on solution base	 -Let them present using an episcope or a projector. -Write down keywords said by students on the blackboard. *Think how to measure degrees bigger than 180°by additivity of degrees. (Assessment Criteria 3, observation & notebook) -Let them compare to 90° and 180° Or explain using pictures. (To enable students, especially those with difficulties, to understand easily). s over 180° there are over 180°. there are under 360°. 	Complete Understanding





Chart 30. Plan for Writing on Blackboard: Grade 3





Glossary

Auxiliary Lines (Helping Lines)

Auxiliary Lines (Helping Lines) are extra lines needed to complete a proof/problem in plane geometry.

Episcope

A device which displays opaque materials including documents by shining a bright lamp onto the object from above.

Kamishibai

Kamishibai is a form of Japanese educational storytelling for younger children. It usually takes place in schools and libraries, but also, traditionally, on street corners and in parks. The term literally means "paper (*kami*) drama (*shibai*)" in English.

Learning with Student Guides

Learning with student guides is a form of small group learning assisted by students during indirect teaching. A few students are selected and trained on how to facilitate and assist the learning processes in a collaborative manner according to the plan. In contrast to student leaders, student guides maintain their position for a longer period of time, whereas leaders could change every lesson.

Learning with Student Leaders

Learning with student leaders is a form of small group learning assisted by students. In learning with leaders, student leaders are facilitators who make prepared announcements, give instructions and confirmation. Unlike student guides students can take turns to be the leaders. The models of answering expressions for non-leader students are also prepared.

Ones Place/Tens Place

Ones Place/Tens Place are place values in a number system when making larger numbers. For example, the number 64 has 4 in the ones place and 6 in the tens place.

Protractor

An instrument for laying down and measuring angles in drawing and plotting.

Tape Diagram

A tape diagram is a rectangular visual model resembling a piece of tape, that is used to assist with the calculation of ratios.

Unit/Learning Unit

A unit or learning unit is a separate part in the whole larger course of study, which are connected leading to one major goal. It usually consists of one chapter or section in a textbook.

Unit Teaching Plan/Lesson Plan

A unit teaching plan consists of learning objectives, evaluation standards, and outlines of daily teaching/learning activities for one separate learning unit based on the annual teaching plan. A lesson plan is a detailed description of the course of learning and instruction for one lesson, including objectives, methods, and time distribution for each activity.

Watari

Watari is teacher's action to move back and forth between grades to conduct direct teaching and indirect teaching in a multi-grade class. (For more information see HUE RISE Resource Series No.1)

Zurashi

Zurashi is a technique to combine different lesson stages for two grades in one class to ensure direct teaching and indirect teaching contents and manage learning activities effectively. (For more information see HUE RISE Resource Series No.1)

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