

**M studied for 16 years at BKI.
She joined BKI when she was 2 years old.
Her final score was 2343 (EIKEN Pre-1 Level)**

BKI MEMORIES

By M. S.

I started coming to BKI when I was 2 and a half years old. There have been so many memories since then, and finally I'm going to graduate from BKI. I clearly remember the Christmas show we did in the Reggio class. The play was about a trip to the moon and I was a tour guide who escorted passengers. The play started from me saying, 'Follow me, follow me this way please!'. It took a little time to remember so many sentences, but I enjoyed practicing it. The play ended successfully, and it is one of my favourite memories.

I had lots of fun at summer school. There is a theme every year, and my favorite one was 'cooking'. We cooked and ate something everyday, like meatloaf, ice cream sundaes, and pizza, it was all delicious. I also enjoyed water play at the park, splashing each other, and getting wet from my head to toe with my friends and teacher was so much fun.

At BKI, I had fun learning new things. I learned that not everyone has to be the same, which I think, is difficult to learn in a normal Japanese school. I also learned how important it is to listen to other people's opinions so that I can think about things from a different viewpoint. I'm glad that I could stay at BKI until now because I am able to use English to learn about the world.

My dream is to become a vet in the future. I got accepted into the same university that I visited when I was in BKI morning class. We went to their stables to feed carrots to the horses. Everyone was scared of them, but I wasn't. I was the only one who raised their hand to go first. After I petted and fed the horse, everyone else seemed less scared. From this experience, I realized that I not only like animals, but I also like to challenge new things. I'm going to study veterinary science for the next six years. I will do my best to become a vet who can connect animals and people.

N had been with BKI for 17 years, since the age of 1.
Her final score was 2536 (EIKEN Pre-1 Level).

[My memories at BKI]

I was 1 year old when BKI first opened. My mom, (Ms. Kumi) used to tell me she had a tough time carrying a 10 kg baby on her back while moving around teaching the kids. Although some people have great memories of their childhood, I'm the type of person who doesn't even remember what they ate the night before (sorry mom if I troubled you those days ♥).

The graduation book, however, brings back some memories. Looking at it, makes it seem like the photos were just taken yesterday.

I would say that one of the best times I had at BKI, was the camping trip we went on in 2012. The teachers and the five of us went to Kawai and stayed at a log house for a night and a day. Being away from home and being able to stay up all night with my friends was such an exciting thing for me as a little girl. Our promises to the teachers were to cook our own dinner, clean our own mess, pack our own luggage and never complain or whine about anything. It was a lesson about being responsible.

BKI was a place where we learned not only the basics of English, but also the importance of becoming a self-reliant person. It was also a place where the teachers gave me the opportunity to step out into the outside world. For example, they allowed me to express my true feelings when talking about certain debate topics. They also taught me that by listening to other people's thoughts, I could come up with ideas that I never thought I would.

To be honest, I didn't feel so in touch with English when I first started learning it. It was just another rule I had to follow from my parents and there were so many times that I just wanted to give up and quit BKI. Yet still, I've managed to go through it and here I am now finishing my whole entire school life at BKI. I couldn't have done this without any support and I can't thank my friend M. S. enough for staying with me until the end.

English has brought me into a completely different world. Japan is now beginning to understand the importance in English and the education system is slowly changing. Applying into University, I've noticed that most of the schools now include English in their tests and for a non-English speaker it is not easy at all. I've learned that universities not only look for people who can speak write and understand English, but also look for people who have the flexibility to imagine, think and have the attitude to speak out about their opinions. I think a lot of people misunderstand that just remembering vocabulary and studying at their desks are not always the right ways to study. To be able to maintain your language skills, you need to have the time to sit down with the task and think for a moment. To bring out those thoughts, to speak out those words and share out those ideas. To make that time and space to do it, you need people to support you, and that is what I think BKI is for.

With skills I gained at BKI, I have decided that I want to use English as a tool to help people who are suffering. I'm not sure what will happen in my coming future but I am aware that my past experiences will always push me in the right direction. Thank you, teachers, friends, the people who supported me, and the kids who called my name whenever I came into the door. I hope my presence has influenced you all in some way. -N. T. M.