

## Bilingual Deaf Education Can Make a Difference: Key to Empowering the Diminishing Deaf Society

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明晴学園





## Outline of the presentation

- History of Deaf education and impact remaining today
- Bilingual Deaf education at Meisei Gakuen... The revival of Deaf education
- The importance of JSL competency
- Turning the course of the Deaf community



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## History of Japanese Deaf Education and the current situation of the Deaf Community

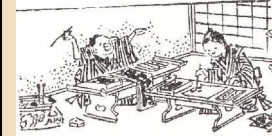

## History of Japanese Deaf Education

End of Edo Era Temple Schools	Meiji Era First Deaf School established	Showa Era The spread of Oral Education
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1850 1925 1990

### Temple Schools

Provided primary education to the children of commoners. Accepted the blind, deaf and physically disabled children. Deaf children learned to read and write by observing real objects and pictures.



## History of Japanese Deaf Education

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1850 1925 1990

### Temple Schools

Deaf children started to use some signs to communicate with each other. When they left school and could no longer see each other, such signs were lost.



## History of Japanese Deaf Education

End of Edo Era Temple Schools	Meiji Era First Deaf School Established	Showa Era The Spread of Oral Education
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1850 1925 1990

### Establishment of Deaf Schools

1878 Kyoto  
1880 Tokyo

Deaf people started to get together often, leading to the birth of Japanese Sign Language.

### History of Japanese Deaf Education

End of Edo Era (1850) Temple Schools

Meiji Era (1868-1912) First Deaf School Established (1877)

Showa Era (1926-1989) The Spread of Oral Education

1933 Decree for Oral Method

Statement of the Education Minister  
 "Sign Language is not a language of our country."  
 Sign Language prohibited.  
 Start of strict oral education.

Deaf Community

Sign language was prohibited in classrooms, but continued to live in the Deaf Community.

### History of Japanese Deaf Education

## The situation today

2000

- Deaf Schools closing down
- Inclusive education encouraged
- CI becoming widespread
- Deaf people becoming isolated

Deaf Community

More lonely Deaf people

### History of Japanese Deaf Education

## The situation today

2000

Breakdown of the Deaf Community

Japanese Sign Language

↓

Endangered Language

↓

Loss of Identity

### Bilingual Deaf Education at Meisei Gakuen

## Revival of Deaf Education

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

1999

Young Deaf people who were educated in the aural/oral method stood up to start an informal free-school for Deaf children called "Tatsunoko Gakuen" where JSL was used as the common language.

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

Motivated Parents

Supportive Deaf Persons

Deaf Children

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

**We want education in JSL !**

**NO** Ministry of Education

**NO** Local Education Board

**NO** Deaf Schools

**We were surrounded by opposition and antagonism**

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

- 1998 DPro Deaf Education Team Started
- 1999 Deaf Free-School "Tatsunoko Gakuen" opened (Sea Horse School)
- 2003 NPO Bilingual Bicultural Education Center for Deaf Children opened
- 2008 Private Education Institution Meisei Gakuen started

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

#### 手話で学ぶ学校 明晴学園

～聞こえない子どもは障害児ではなく、「目の子ども」そして「手話を使う子ども」です  
そして大切なのは「音」より「ことば」です～

聞こえる子どもに日本語があるように  
聞こえない子どもには手話があります。  
聞こえる子どもと聞こえない子どもはことばが違うだけで、  
他は変わりありません。  
聞こえる子どもと同じように成長できます。  
子どもおとも先生も、誰もがみんな手話を使う学校  
手話で学び、遊び、語り、伸びる  
それが明晴学園です。

**Bilingual Bicultural Deaf Education**

### 手話で学ぶ学校 明晴学園

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手話で学び、遊び、語り、伸びる  
それが明晴学園です。

Meisei Gakuen, a school where children learn in Japanese Sign Language  
～Deaf children are not disabled children. They are "children of the eyes" and "children who communicate in sign language". What matters is "language" and not "sound."  
Just as hearing children have Japanese, Deaf children have Japanese Sign Language.  
Hearing children and Deaf children are different only in the language that they use.  
They are the same in all other aspects.  
Deaf children can grow and develop just like hearing children.  
A school where children, adults, teachers, everybody can use Sign Language...  
A school where we study, play, talk and grow in Sign Language...That is Meisei Gakuen!

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

#### Teachers and staff

Deaf teachers whose first language is JSL  
Hearing staff members who are fluent in JSL  
Many Deaf staff to support teachers

**16 Deaf Teachers** **12 Hearing teachers**

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

#### Teachers and Staff

Deaf teachers whose first language is JSL  
Hearing Staff who are fluent in JSL  
Many Deaf staff to support teachers

**Sign Language Environment**  
ensuring stress-free communication where children can express whatever they want to say and understand whatever is said to them.

### The Establishment of Meisei Gakuen

**Number of children enrolled: 57 in total**

Kindergarten : 13 Primary School : 31  
 Junior High School 13  
 ※Baby Classes 0~2 10 maximum

**Sign Language Environment**  
 ensuring stress-free communication where children can express whatever they want to say, and understand whatever is said to them.

### Primary 3-4 Social Studies

**Grade 3,4 Social studies**  
 小学部 3, 4年クラス  
 社会科

**八潮地域を学ぶ**

2014. 5. 21.

### Primary 6 Japanese Language

小学部 6年クラス  
 日本語科  
**Grade 6 Japanese Lesson**  
**「ピリカ」読解**  
 Reading a story Pirka

2014. 6. 6.

### The importance of JSL competency

**Meaningful and Lively Lessons**

Social Studies  
 Math Science  
 P.E.  
 Japanese Ethics

**Strong Foundation built with their Mother Tongue (JSL Ability)**

### The importance of JSL competency

Deaf Actors  
 Sign Stories  
 Deaf Poets  
 Deaf Polititians  
 Deaf Heroes  
 Deaf History  
 Deaf Culture  
 Deaf Educatio

Presentations  
 Discussions  
 Speeches  
 Language Analysis  
 Literature

Deaf Studies  
 Improvement of CALP

**Power of the Mother Tongue (JSL)**

### The importance of JSL competency

Deaf Actors  
 Sign Stories  
 Deaf Poets  
 Deaf Polititians  
 Deaf Heroes  
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Presentations  
 Discussions  
 Speeches  
 Language Analysis  
 Literature

The important thing to live a Deaf life is  
**IDENTITY**

Deaf Studies  
 Improvement of CALP

**Power of the Mother Tongue (JSL)**

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

**Deaf Community in an Educational Institution**  
Deaf people contributing actively to society

- Film director
- Athlete in Deaflympics
- Lawyer
- Pharmacist
- Architect
- Farmer
- News Caster
- University Student
- Painter
- Photographer
- Karate Master
- Restaurant Owner
- Adventurist
- Actor/Actress
- Designer
- Nurse

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Deaf Community inside an Educational Institution  
Deaf Visitors from all over the world

**100 people  
From more than  
30 countries**

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Deaf Community inside an Educational Institution  
Deaf Visitors from all over the world

**I'm so impressed with this bi-bi school because Deaf students have Deaf teachers as their role models. Not only that but they are able to use JSL and learn Deaf culture. "Sign Language is a human right all for Deaf children."**

From the U.S.A.

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Deaf community inside an Educational Institution  
Deaf Visitors from Abroad

**A wonderful school!  
May the world follow your example!  
A very happy atmosphere with all children and teachers smiling!**

From the U.K.

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Deaf Community inside an Educational Institution  
Deaf Visitors from Abroad

**I am so impressed by this wonderful Deaf school for being so positive. I'm so happy to have had this chance to visit this school. Education in sign language and written language is so important. Love! Thank you!**

from Denmark

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Need to re-examine Deaf Education  
Secure a place where Deaf people can meet each other every day

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

Need to re-examine Deaf Education  
Secure a place where Deaf can meet Deaf every day

**The Deaf Community exists within Deaf Education.  
Existing as a community inside the school will be the new model of the Deaf Community in future.**

### Turning the course of the Deaf Community

### Our request to everyone

Please provide a place where we can meet our Deaf friends every day.  
If you don't have such a place, please make one for us.

I want to meet adults who are Deaf like me and hear their different stories.  
We want to live in a world where communicating with each other in Sign Language is just a normal thing.

We depend on all of you here today to build a bright future for Deaf children. Thank you for watching my presentation.  
All for the future of Deaf children throughout the world!!