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Tokyo Individualized Educational Institute Announces That Its Benesse Science Class Second-Year Preschool Course for Four- and Five-Year Olds Will Begin Ahead of Schedule

Tokyo Individualized Educational Institute, Inc. (TIEI) announces that it will begin offering its Benesse Science Class for second-year preschool students (four- and five-year olds) ahead of schedule in September during the fiscal year ending February 2016.

TIEI is increasing the value it provides to its customers as part of its efforts for service portfolio expansion, a key measure of Dynamic Challenge 2017, its new medium-term management plan. During the fiscal year ended February 2015, the Benesse Science Class Second-Year Preschool Course began in December. However, in response to the recent rise in demand for science experiment classes for younger children, during the fiscal year ending February 2016 TIEI will begin the class three months ahead of schedule in September. Continuing from last year, TIEI aims to further increase the number of pupils by holding the class as a second-year preschool course that parents and children can enjoy together.

1) Overview of Benesse Science Class

TIEI acquired the Benesse Science Class business from Benesse Corporation in April 2014 and currently operates four schools in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture (Kichijoji, Yoga, Tama Plaza and Kamiooka). Through lessons using science experiments, the class broadens children's interest in science and nurtures a forward-looking attitude of wanting to know and try more and to solve problems. The class offers problem-solving lessons with experiments that repeat the process of "question (identification of issues) \Rightarrow hypothesis \Rightarrow verification" using actual experimental equipment in an environment where each student can experiment.

2) Introduction of Second-Year Preschool Course (Limited enrollment)

<u>Aims</u>

To nurture interest in science as children share with their parents the experience of finding wonder in everyday life by asking "why?" and "how come?" about familiar things

- Enjoyably stimulate interest in science with a curriculum suited to the children's current stage
- Enhance children's discovery by having them use experimental tools together with parents so that they can find things out for themselves
- Freely nurture children's interest in asking "why?"
- Generate communication between parents and children by letting parents directly experience their children's growth

Curriculum (Sample)

"Bubble science": Learn the various ways bubbles and foam are made. "Big soap bubbles": Try mixing up a soap solution to make big soap bubbles "The marvel of lenses": Look at various items through a microscope

Lesson Schedule

60-minute lessons once a month (Second-year preschool course) Note: Number and length of lessons vary depending on school grade.

3) Start of Course: September 2015

Free trial classes will be held in July and August (Advance reservation required)