

# Experiences of Kindergarten and Nursery School Children through Interaction with Junior High School Students on 'Experience Activity Days'

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..... **Abstract** .....

The study aims to investigate the experiences of kindergarten and nursery school children through their interactions with junior high school students on 'Experience Activity Days'. Observations were made and recorded on 'Experience Activity Days' held in six kindergartens and nursery schools, focusing on the interactions between the two groups of students. Interactive incidents in these episodes were analyzed and categorized into the following six groups: (1) interaction with friendly attitude towards the junior high school students, (2) interaction showing interest and attention to the junior high school students who do not regularly attend the class, (3) dynamic interaction by the presence of junior high school students, (4) interaction in which younger children have the initiative, (5) troubles among the younger children caused by the presence of junior high school students, and (6) no interaction. Further analysis indicated that although the younger children have displayed a sense of familiarity and admiration towards the junior high school students through the 'Experience Activity Days', they also have learned to control their feelings, having experienced situations in which they had to control themselves and be patient.

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*Key words:* experience activity days, interaction, sense of familiarity, self control