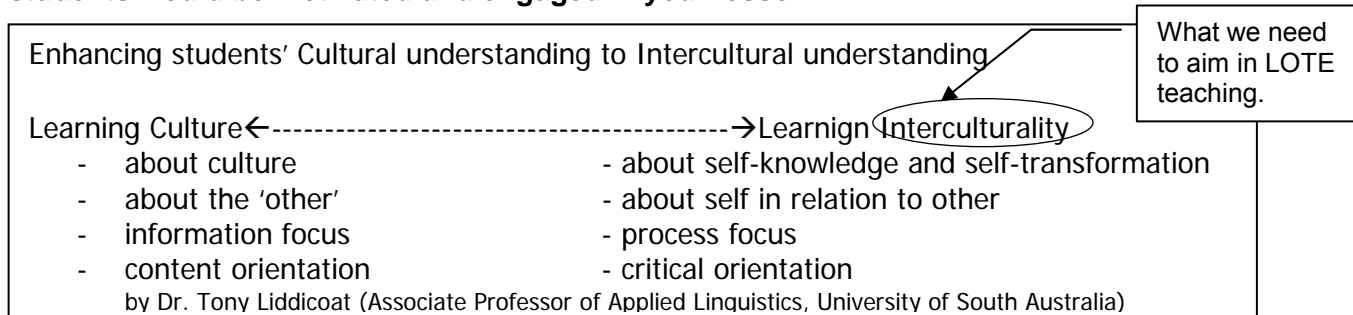


Soft Toy Exchange – For teachers in overseas

You can teach students Japanese culture, Hiragana, IT skills (photo editing, Japanese and English word processing, photo story, Power Point, Movie Maker & more) and Japanese grammar throughout the Soft Toy Exchange **ぬいぐるみ交流 (Nuigurumi kooryuu)**! and more importantly, students would be motivated and engaged in your lesson!!!



Students could also learn how to solve problems in a group work situation. Students will practice: making team decisions without blame; how to vote fairly; how to allocate jobs evenly and monitoring their personal progress in each lesson.

1. What you need for the soft toy exchange:

- You & your passion!!!
- (Japanese helper)
- Good communication with sensei in Japan
- Digital camera
- Printer (preferably colour)
- Emailing skill
- School website
- Information about Japan/Japanese schools (Photo resource: The lives of Japanese Elementary School Students, Deai, web pages, etc...)



Passport



Diary set (students' diary book & phrase + dictionary book) in a folder

Things to send for the first time:

- Soft toys
- Passports
- Souvenirs
- Information pack (sample ideas)
 - Your school photos
 - Poster
 - Students' letters

Things to prepare while hosting the students:

- Diary set (Dictionary book with Sample diary pages, diary)
- A lot of pictures of Japan and Japanese school (web or photo)

Things to send when you return the soft toys (students):

- Diary / letters
- Class photos with the exchange student (excursions, class work, sports, etc...)
- Students letter or craft during the Japanese or class lesson
- Farewell party photos
- Christmas cards



How the program works

* The following timeline is based on the Victorian school term in Australia.

1. Preparation time Duration: 8 weeks

timeline	Suggested preparation, lesson, and activities
1 st week to 3 rd week	1) Promote the exchange program at your school & make sure you have principal / vice principal's approval 2) Talk to the class teacher of the grade that you will be introducing the program to 3) *Email to teacher(s) in Japan and discuss what you are going to do and what your focus is through the exchange program: e.g. <input type="checkbox"/> cultural exchange <input type="checkbox"/> language exchange <input type="checkbox"/> both <input type="checkbox"/> how often you email each other / send information <input type="checkbox"/> communication tools between teachers (email or letter) <input type="checkbox"/> communication tools between students (email or letter) *Dilemma: you would like your students to use Japanese, but Japanese teachers want English or just cultural exchange Introduce the exchange program to your students
4 th week to 7 th week	4) Buy little souvenirs e.g. <input type="checkbox"/> easy English book <input type="checkbox"/> sweets/snack/tea or coffee for teachers <input type="checkbox"/> something that represents your country <input type="checkbox"/> school hats or emblem 5) Buy soft toys 6) School information pack (done by students and teacher): posters, booklet... 7) Prepare handmade presents e.g. <input type="checkbox"/> alphabet cards <input type="checkbox"/> boomerang <input type="checkbox"/> culture booklet <input type="checkbox"/> students' drawings
8 th week	8) Send the exchange pack to Japan *NOTE: Remember to send the pack before school holidays in Japan and your country!
*Step 3) could become the first thing to do in order to make sure that you have a school to do an exchange with	

2. Hosting the students Duration: depends on your program

timeline	Suggested preparation, lesson, and activities
1 st week	1) Let sensei in Japan know when you receive the exchange students 2) Show your students the presents that you receive from Japan (other students who are not doing the exchange program as well!) You can talk about: e.g. <input type="checkbox"/> school timetable in Japan <input type="checkbox"/> lunchtime (kyuushoku & obento) <input type="checkbox"/> playtime (playtime rules, what J-kids do during the playtime) <input type="checkbox"/> getting to school
2 nd week to the end of the program	3) Diary writing starts e.g. <input type="checkbox"/> introduction – how to write diary in Japanese & English <input type="checkbox"/> samples <input type="checkbox"/> hosting the students at home during the weekends 4) Taking the students to the excursions and sports activities *NOTE: please attach a special name tag (school address, phone number, name of the contact person) onto the students (just in case students loose them!) 5) Web conference – optional * please read [web conference document] 6) Email – optional 7) Email sensei at least once a month how the students are doing at your school
Suggested activities (these activities would easily fit your unit theme/contents): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School assembly (introducing the exchange program and the students) • Grammar practice (Past tense, Verbs, Adjectives) • Students' digital portfolio (Movie Maker, Power Point, Photo Story) • Word processing practice (in Japanese and English) • Translation activities (using dictionary / vocabulary list) • Japanese or Australian Cultural events (tanabata, otsukimi, hichi-go-san, Undookai, *Christmas) • Hiragana revision (for sending letter or poster to Japan) • Math activities for comparing prices of daily foods, toys, electricity between Japan & Australia • SOSE activities • Raising intercultural awareness • Newsletter article • Others 	

3. Returning the students Duration: 5 weeks before your school semester or year finishes

timeline	Suggested preparation, lesson, and activities
5 weeks before the end of the term	1) Contact sensei in Japan and discuss when you are going to return the exchange students 2) Check what you can send back to Japan with the students
4 weeks before the end of the term	3) Thank you letter or greeting card to Japan 4) A small gift to Japan 5) Farewell party or Christmas party 6) Getting a parcel ready
3 weeks before the end of the term	7) Email to Japan when you send the parcel
2 weeks before the end of the term	8) Welcome back celebration with students 9) School Newsletter article -*optional 10) Assembly presentation -*optional
Last week of the term	11) Email to Japan and plan the next round

I hope you and your students enjoy this program ☺