

## **Chapter 3 Strengthening community with multiple networks which performs childcare**

### **Section 1 Variety of sites and networks fulfilling parenting support**

#### **1. Addressing Development and Functional Enhancement of the Bases of Childcare Support in the Region**

##### **1) Visiting Every Family with Infants (Hello Baby Project)**

The ‘visit all houses of infant’ project which supports the provision of information related to the child care by visiting all the houses with infants, and the ‘parenting support visit’ project which carries out consultation, guidance, advice as per the visits for the households where parenting support is necessary, are promoted.

##### **2) Promoting Establishment of Community Child Care Support Centers**

The government is making efforts to promote establishment of three types of community child care support centers and utilizing the features of each type: the ‘community child care support centers project (plaza type)’, in vacant space of public facilities and stores, the ‘community child care support centers project (center type)’, carrying out childcare consultations and the provision on childcare related information in the regions at nursery schools, and the ‘community child care support centers project (children center type)’ in privatized children centers.

##### **3) Promotion of Family Support Centre**

The establishment of the family support center carrying out mutual support activities such as the transportation and after school custody is promoted by considering the workers and housewives in child care of infants or primary school children.

##### **4) Temporary Custody, Kindergarten Custody Care**

###### **(1) Implementation of Temporary Custody Project**

The temporary custody project is implemented for coping up with the demands of temporary custody service for the child care during emergency in the family of full time housewife and temporary child care corresponding to the diversification of the work arrangement.

###### **(2) Custody Care in the Kindergarten**

The support is extended to the kindergarten which deals in ‘custody care’ for the desired persons according to the situation in the region or demand of the parents, before and after the normal training time for Kindergarten (standard 4 hours) or the during the long holiday.

##### **5) Using Vacant Shops in the Mall, Vacant Classrooms in the School, Kindergarten**

###### **(1) Using Vacant Shops in the Mall**

In order to promote the establishment of places that can serve for the function of childcare support in the region and parent-child interaction, using vacant store spaces at shopping streets will be facilitated.

###### **(2) Using Vacant Classrooms of Primary Schools, Junior High Schools, and the Kindergartens**

The vacant classrooms can be effectively used due to high flexibility of property disposal procedures for public school establishments receiving government subsidy and the preparation of pamphlets introducing the case studies for using the vacant classrooms of the primary schools, junior high schools, and kindergartens as the places for child care support and parent interaction.

#### **6) General Support Coordinator for Childcare**

Coordinate work related to childcare support to understand a single point of regional childcare support services information such as temporary custody and community childcare support center project, and provide information to the user, is positioned as the responsibility of the municipality, and in order to further promote these efforts, the development of the next generation support human resources development projects to train coordinators which support the parent's childcare was founded in 2009.

The training is given to 'child care supporter leader' for improving the quality of 'child care supporter' to be deployed all across the country for the child care consultation and the consultation system is enhanced. In addition, the initiatives for supporting the next generation child support is understood and the training is implemented for the persons satisfying the role as the coordinator who supports the child care of the parents and the persons who lend their hands for the regional child care support project for obtaining necessary understanding and knowledge.

### **2. Promoting use of residents power, support of private organizations, intergenerational exchange**

#### **1) Supporting Regional Childcare Activity like NPO Activity**

The training of 'child care supporter leader' who measures the improvement in the quality for 'child care supporter' distributed all across the country corresponding to the child care consultation, is carried out and consulting system related to child care is enhanced. In addition, the initiative for supporting the next generation child care is understood and the training is implemented for the persons who satisfy the role of coordinator supporting the child care and the persons who lend hand for the child care support project in the region for obtaining necessary understanding and knowledge.

#### **2) Using Manpower and Intergenerational Exchange of Retired and Elderly People in the Area**

The Silver Human Resources Center implements the 'project of the child care using the elderly people' for supporting the infants care and transportation to the child care facility, and learning and daily life guidance for the after school and weekends for the school children.

#### **3) Supporting Childcare by the Company Participation**

Local public entities promotes the initiatives for the passport project which provides various discounted services for the child care households with the cooperation of the companies as the 'child care support project using corporate participation'.

#### **4) Public-private Cooperated Childcare Manpower Development**

The nationwide movement for raising awareness of the society as a whole including the business entrepreneurs and workers with the cooperation of the government for promoting revision of styles of working and balanced work, family and child care and

implementing the further promotion of the child care support in the company or region.

In order to implement the further promotion of the child care support in the company or region, the fosterage of human resource who will progress the work-life balance and child care support was conducted. In 2010, the seminars were held for the employees of companies in charge of work-life balance and the workers of NPOs which support child care.

## Section 2 Aiming for children to live safely and securely in houses and towns

### **1. Ensuring the security of housing and living environment that is suitable for raising children**

#### **1) Support for home ownership through housing loans and tax system**

To facilitate the acquisition of high-quality home ownership, interest rates of housing loans for the housing whose durability and variability, etc. are especially high have been lowered by the support scheme to facilitate for acquiring high-quality housing of Securitization Support Business of Japan Housing Finance Agency.

#### **2) Promote supply of high -quality rental housing for families**

To promote integrally various measures for households raising children, such as precise supply of public rental housing and support of smooth occupancy to private rental housing, the government is driving forward the supply of high-quality rental housing for families.

#### **3) Ensuring the stability of residence through the effective use of public rental housing stock**

For households raising children, business entities, such as local public entities and Urban Renaissance Agency, at their own discretion, may implement the handling of priority occupancy at public rental housing.

#### **4) Promotion of integral development of public rental housing and childcare facilities support**

As well as features in principle the social welfare facilities during the rebuilding of public rental housing a large-scale, the government has been promoting the project of re-development of public rental housing estates as a regional welfare center.

In addition, it has been easing of restrictions on the floor area ratio for nurseries or aid in the case of the introduction of the nursery facilities in buildings in the urban redevelopment project etc.

#### **5) Promotion of residence in the cities**

In order to support families raising children living close by jobs in the city center, housing supply in city centers is induced and promoted.

### **2. Promoting barrier-free childcare for safe and peaceful living**

#### **1) Promoting barrier-free childcare**

##### **(1) Promotion of barrier-free measures that take into account the concept of universal design**

Based on the ‘The Law for Improving Easily Accessible Transportation and Facilities for the Elderly and Disabled’, in addition to a fixed target (by the end of FY 2020) facilitation of the movement regarding each facility, the need for education and training to perform maintenance and facilities that meet the needs of the parties concerned was established in ‘Basic Policy on Promotion of Smooth Movement’.

##### **(2) Promotion of barrier-free buildings**

Barrier-free buildings are being promoted through imposition of conformity obligations for building standards on owners, when attempting to make changes, such as new construction, renovation, and applications for buildings over a certain size that are used by an unspecified number of persons.

Based on the ‘Act on the Promotion of the Facilitation of Movement for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities’, barrier-free equipment is being promoted for architectural spaces with consideration to maternity, infants and children.

### **(3) Promotion of barrier-free public transportation**

The promotion of barrier-free public transportation is achieved by a variety of auxiliary aid, with promotion measures such as the introduction of low-floor bus in the bus fleet vans and elimination of stairs in passenger facilities.

### **(4) Promotion of barrier-free adaptations in urban parks and riversides**

The development of urban parks, locations for health exercise and recreation, and places for all people to rest and communicate, while considering children, pregnant women, and people with children, is being promoted through comprehensive social infrastructure improvement grants.

## **2) Development of Road Traffic Environment**

For the community roads, the development of the signals by the prefectural public safety commission, development of sidewalks, speed bump, chicane and preparing compact intersections a by the road administrator are implemented so that pregnant women, children and the persons accompanying children can pass through safely and securely. The efforts are taken for the development of pedestrian roads, and the control of entry and speed in the traffic.

### **3) Promotion of Traffic Safety Training**

The traffic safety education, suitable for their developmental stage, is promoted for infants and primary, secondary, high school children in coordination and cooperation of households and related institutions, organizations etc. In addition, correct use of child seats, safe bike riding with two children are also.

### **4) Promotion of making things by children's views (Promotion of Kids Design)**

The development and dissemination of 'Kids design', a design that aims to create living conditions that lead to healthy growth and development of children's safety and security are being promoted.