

Unit 13 When is it?

★Activities to learn the names of seasons and months.

Unit Aims

Seasons and months are popular themes in elementary school English activities. However, in many cases activities are simply designed to have the children practice and memorize the names of seasons and months. It is important to provide children with activities in which the names of seasons and months appear again and again by having them talk about various seasonal events, their own birthdays, various flowers that bloom in different seasons, etc. It is also important for children to be able to know the names of months in random order as has been mentioned earlier for numbers.

Vocabulary

spring summer fall winter

January February March April May June July August

September October November December

Classroom English

What season is this?

When do you see cherry blossoms?

Do you see cherry blossoms in winter?

When is your birthday?

Step of Activities

- (1) Learning the names of seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter) looking at the pictures on the page. P.59
- (2) Talking about seasons with the flowers and activities found on the page. P.60-P.61

- (3) Looking at the events found on the page and talking about which month they take place. P.60-P.61
- (4) Finding out in what month their classmates were born in, and writing the names in the list. P.62

Reference

Japan has four distinguishable seasons, but depending on countries and areas around the world, there are places where the four seasons are not clear. In tropical areas, there are places where they only have summer and a rainy season. In countries such as Australia, which are in the southern hemisphere, the seasons are the opposite from countries in the northern hemisphere such as Japan. By adding topics such as these in activities dealing with months and seasons, it is possible to add an international understanding element.

Other Possible Activities

1. Do an activity where children are required to think of colors that describe each of the seasons. Ask questions such as “What color is spring?” or “What color is summer?” and have the children compare the different images they have about the seasons.
What color is spring? Do you think spring is pink?
I think spring is green.
2. Prepare photographs or illustrations of flowers that bloom in certain times of the year and have the children think about the seasons or months that these flowers bloom in. If you talk about flowers blooming at certain times of the year around the school, it will draw the children’s attention. It is also an idea to bring up flowers the children have studied about in their Seikatsuka or science classes.
This is a tulip. When do you see this flower?
We see it in March and April.