

Proposal for Teaching Materials for Preschool and Elementary School Based on Japanese and Tokyo Government's Disaster Safety Educational Programs

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Abstract

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the Japanese government and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) began considering educational programs for disaster mitigation. Accordingly, MEXT prepared educational materials. Later, in 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake struck Japan. Subsequently, the Japanese government and MEXT revised their educational material substantially. MEXT conducted programs in kindergarten, an elementary school, a junior high school, a high school, and a special support school.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government also conducted programs for kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, and special support schools, which were managed under the Tokyo prefecture. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government designed the framework for these programs, and they conformed to the national educational policy.

At present, an educational program is available; however, its teaching materials' quality is not enriched. Therefore, we decided to propose and develop teaching materials that conform to MEXT's and Tokyo Metropolitan Government's educational policy for disaster mitigation. Two types of teaching materials were proposed: picture book teaching material for preschoolers and teaching material for upper-grade students in elementary school. In addition, teaching guidelines were developed for each to aid teachers; as these educational programs were new, teaching guidelines were necessary for teachers.

The teaching materials were developed as follows.

First, we developed the first version of the teaching materials. Teachers were asked to judge the validity of these materials through a survey. Then, the materials were revised based on the survey results.

Second, we developed guidelines that explained the contents of the teaching materials. We also determined whether a teacher could teach a class using these guidelines. Finally, we considered the contents.

Through this process, we were able to develop teaching materials and corresponding teaching guidelines.

We plan to offer these materials on the Internet.

Keywords: earthquake disaster mitigation, teaching material, teaching guidelines



1. Introduction

After the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the Japanese government and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) started educational programs for disaster mitigation. These programs were revised after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. This paper analyzes the disaster mitigation education policy of MEXT and safety educational program of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which followed MEXT's education policy. Furthermore, it proposes new disaster mitigation teaching materials for kindergarten and primary school students.

In Japan, MEXT is in charge of school education. Kindergarten lasts for 2–3 years; elementary school, for six years; junior high school, for three years; high school, for three years; university in graduate school, for four years; Master's degree course, for two years; and Doctoral degree course, for three years. Of these, elementary and junior high school are compulsory. Before elementary school, children go to a nursery school, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. MEXT provides curriculum guidelines for kindergarten through 12th grade (high school), and school education must be based on these.

A Board of Education is organized in each prefecture to ensure compliance with MEXT's education policies and govern school education. A Board may sometimes develop educational programs and teaching materials that reflect a regional peculiarity in accordance with the curriculum guidelines.

2. New disaster mitigation program in schools after 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake

2.1 Changes

In 1998, the Japanese government and MEXT promoted reference documents of the disaster mitigation program for school education. After the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, they revised these programs, as shown in Table 1. [1] The revised documents were ready by 2013 for kindergarten to high school students. The disaster mitigation program is one of the safety programs in school education in the "Disaster security" field. The safety programs cover three fields: "Disaster security," "Life security," and "Traffic safety."

Date	Events			
January 15, 1995	'he Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake			
March 1998	Reference documents of disaster mitigation educational program"			
November 2001	"Reference documents of safety programs," first edition			
March 2010	"Reference documents of safety programs," second edition			
March 11, 2011	The Great East Japan Earthquake			
March 2013	"Reference documents of safety programs," revised and extended version			

Table 1 – Revisions in disaster mitigation program a	after Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake
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According to the 2013 reference documents, the purposes of the program are "to understand systematically, and increase the ability to think and judge and make appropriate decisions" and "to increase the practical ability and attitude about security, and more importantly, make these a habit." The purposes of the program differed from kindergarten to high school, with its scope increasing with the school year. [1] The 2013 reference documents show some concrete class examples, including six for kindergarten, seventeen for elementary school, ten for junior high school, seven for high school, and twelve for special support school.

2.2 Purpose and instruction contents of disaster mitigation program according to 2013 reference documents

We focused on the kindergarten and elementary school disaster mitigation program, as described in Table 2.



Table 2 – Purpose an	d instruction	contents of	disaster	mitigation	program fo	or kindergarten	and elementary
school period [1]							

		Aim of study	Instruction contents
	3- year-old child	 Be aware of safety and dangers in daily life in kindergarten Perform evacuation with teachers and staff 	 Know rules for emergency evacuation Act as instructed by teachers and staff Evacuate with teachers and staff
Kindergarten	4- year-old child	 Understand safety rules, be able to act carefully Move to a safer area as instructed by teachers and staff quickly during a disaster 	 Know rules for emergency evacuation Understand safe areas, guard oneself, and take necessary actions Pay attention to others and take actions Understand dangers during a disaster Take care of infants and elderly persons
	5- year-old child	 Understand the safety/danger place and action, be able to act out of own head Move to a safer area as instructed by teacher and staff in carge quickly and calmly, when disaster happens 	 Guard oneself and act auickly to move to a safe area Understand dangers during a disaster Take care of infants and elderly persons
	6- & 7- year-old children (1st & 2nd grades)	 Show interest in disasters, and this will enable thinking about safe behaviors during a disaster. Know dangers during a disaster, take appropriate actions, and act as instructed by teachers and staff Avoid dangerous situations and act according to an adult's instructions during a disaster 	 How to behave during a disaster Appropriate behaviors during a disaster System to ensure safety in a region
Elementary school	8- & 9- year-old children (3rd & 4th grades)	 Understand basics about a disaster and think of good ideas to mitigate problems Be aware of dangers during a disaster and of ways to avoid dangerous situations by oneself Be able to avoid dangerous situations in cooperation with family, friends, and neighbors during a disater 	 Safety during daily life and prepare for emergency Appropriate behaviors during a disaster Show consideration for others and show some social responsibility
	10- & 11- year-old children (5th & 6th grades)	 Be able to understand regional characteristics of a disaster and be prepared for a disaster Be able to expect dangers during a disaster and act to avoid dangerous situations by oneself Be able to consider the safety of family, friends, and neighbors and perform actions useful to others during a disaster 	 Understand disasters that are likely to occur in a region Appropriate behaviors during a disaster How to be prepared for a disaster in the near future

During kindergarten, it is important for pupils to understand safety in daily life and to get into the habit of thinking carefully before they do something during a disaster. Toward this end, practical drills that become increasingly difficult with time are conducted every month. The purpose of these drills is that a pupil can sense or avoid danger and cultivate a habit of doing something with a quiet attitude.

During elementary school, it is important to teach children to think deliberately and continually. It is considered that schoolchildren can make appropriate decisions during disasters and cultivate their practical ability, attitude and habits toward safety. Teachers have to set the program's aims according to their school district and local characteristics.

3. Tokyo Metropolitan Government's safety training program

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government developed a safety training programs [2] for kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, high school, and special support school students; these were managed under Tokyo prefecture. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government designed the framework, including teaching contents and methods, for these programs, [2] and they conformed to the national educational policy. [1]

The educational policy aims to cultivate two abilities: quality and the ability to contribute to others and social safety, and the ability to predict and avoid danger. To realize this educational policy, two goals are set during kindergarten to behave under the directions of the teaching staff and a guardian: to inform a nearby adult during a dangerous situation, and to engage in safe customs and attitudes during daily life. During elementary school, the goals are to cultivate children's crisis avoidance ability and behavior choice ability. Children should be able to keep an open mind and consider themselves as well as regional conditions.



4. Proposed teaching materials

An educational program currently exists; however, the teaching materials' quality is not enriched. It is important to start the school programs from an early stage. Therefore, we decided to propose and develop teaching materials that conform to MEXT's and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's educational policy for disaster mitigation. Two types of teaching materials are proposed: a picture book teaching material for preschoolers, and teaching material for upper grade (5th and 6th grades) in elementary school students. In addition, teaching guidelines were developed for each to aid teachers, as these materials were new and would therefore be unknown to teachers.

4.1 Developing teaching materials

4.1.1 Teaching materials for preschoolers

Before developing the teaching materials, we conducted interviews with two former nurture persons and one kindergarten teacher about the current conditions of disaster mitigation education at kindergarten and preschool in September and October 2014. The main interview results are as follows.

- It is difficult to be conscious about disaster mitigation until the age of five.
- A five-year-old child cannot easily judge by him/herself what he/she should do.
- A five-year-old child does not understand why furniture shakes and falls down.
- When teaching a three-year-old child how to get under a desk repeatedly, we expect that he/she will understand this topic by using a picture book.
- It is necessary for a three-year-old child to read repeatedly to learn. A topic should be adopted in which he/she is calm in picture book material.
- A three-year-old child likes stories that include similar developments repeatedly, so such stories should be adopted in the teaching materials.

We also interviewed a disaster mitigation expert, who advised us that the teaching content must be narrowed down.

In our teaching material, we decided to adopt topics related to protecting oneself in a room or a visited place during an earthquake. Table 3 shows an outline of these topics. The stories in our teaching material show similar developments repeatedly. Our book's teaching guidelines conformed to MEXT's educational policy [1, 3] for disaster mitigation. The teaching guidelines were necessary for teachers and parents because these were new educational programs.

Large classification	Small classification	Topics		
Earthquake	The beginning	Earthquake occurs during a dream, search for my friend.		
Earnquake	Evacuation route	At his friend Rabbit's house, the door cannot be opened.		
Fire	Coping with a fire	His friend Pig's house is on fire.		
	Confirm the route to a	They connect so through a road		
	refuge area	They cannot go through a road.		
Earthquake	Damage in a room	At his friend Squirrel's house, furniture has fallen down, and her treasure is		
Latinquake		crushed under the furniture.		
	New developments	On the way to the house of a knowledgeable uncle, they fell down.		
	Dangers	They told him about their earthquake experience and learned about the earthquake.		
Earthquake and Fire	Coping with a disaster	They learned how to cope with a disaster.		
Earthquake	Preparation	After studying emergency foods, they ate them at their tea party.		

Table 3 – Topics and stories in our teaching materials



4.1.2 Teaching materials for upper grade students in elementary school

We developed teaching materials for upper grade students in elementary school (5th and 6th grades) because these students can provide instructions in their school. We expect that they can inform their family and local people about the contents that they learn, and these activities lead to an improvement in local disaster mitigation ability. The main aim of this teaching material is to prepare (mitigate) near-future damage such as damage estimates of an earthquake with an epicenter in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

Table 4 shows the contents of the teaching material. They consist of two parts: students learn from past large-scale earthquakes (especially school situations) like the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake [4–6] and a workbook part with investigative learning. The students think and discuss issues with their classmates using these materials. We also proposed and developed this book's teaching guidelines for teachers, and these conformed to MEXT's educational policy for disaster mitigation.

		AL 1						Curriculum			
	Content	At school	At home	In other places	Aim of study	1	2	3	4		
1 Lessons from the 1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake	1−1 Damage resulting from an earthquake	 13 schools collapsed Broadcasts could not be aired in schools Teachers could not communicate easily with students because students were noisy Objects fell in the classroom 	•Furniture fell down or was overturned •Buildings collapsed while people were asleep, causing much damage	Disaster message services could not be used because cellular phones went out of communication range Tsunami caused damage	•Know that Japan is susceptible to earthquakes •Understand features of previous earthquakes •Be able to use a disaster message service	0	0	0			
1995 Great Har 1 Great East Ja	1−2 Relation between children and region	Preparation • A tsunami drill had already been conducted before the Tohoku earthquake	• Some students evacuated with elderly persons who lived in the neighborhood	Emergencyresponse • Some students helped to distribute supplies and control traffic at the shelter	•Know importance of mutual help •Understand how people can help each other in a group •Think of the role that you can play	0	0		0		
1 Lessons from the and the 201	1-3 School situation during a major earthquake	Building • There were no emergency stockpiles, because non-designated schools were used as shelters • Before instructions arrived, a gymnasium was opened as a shelter		People •4 years had passed since an earthquake drill was conducted in the community •Fire drills were conducted, but an earthquake drill was not conducted	 Know disaster prevention activities in school Understand role of the shelter Think of behaviors that people should show in a refuge 	0	0	0	0		
ı an epicenter	2-1 What happens when a major earthquake occurs?	•In a class room? •In a gymnasium?	•In my own room?	•In an alley? •In a school route? •Downtown? •Where to go after school?	•Know the dangers of a disaster in a familiar region •Understand features of Tokyo inland earthquake •Be able to identify dangerous places and think of countermeasures •Find disaster facilities in a familiar region	0	0	0			
ss of an earthquake with Metropolitan Area	2-2 What should we do?	 In a reading room? During cleaning of a classroom? 	•In a living room? •In the kitchen?	 In a shopping center? Inside an elevator? 	Learn characteristics of and problems in Tokyo Understand regional dangers and safety behaviors during a disaster Be able to anticipate one's own behavior in various types of disaster scenarios Find and communicate with friends	0	0	0			
mage estimates of <i>a</i> in the Tokyo Metrol	2–3 Relation between citizens and our region	Building •Make an evacuation map		People • Check for people requiring special help (for example, elderly people, infants, etc.) in the neighborhood • Learn about voluntary disaster prevention organizations	• Check the evacuation route and refuge from my house • Know other evacuation routes and refuges in my region in case of emergencies • Try to work with familiar groups from daily life	0	0		0		
 Preparation for damage estimates of an earthquake with an epicenter in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area 	2-4 What shall we keep prepared in case of an earthquake in the near future?	 Know the location of an emergency warehouse and the goods stockpiled in it 	•What goods should be carried in an emergency carry bag? •Check meeting place for family •Prevent furniture from overturning		•Know importance of being prepared •Learn how to prevent furniture from overturning •Think of goods to be stockpiled to deal with an earthquake •Decide a meeting place for the family during a disaster	0	0	0	0		

Table 4 – Contents of our teaching material for upper grade students in elementary school

4. 2 Inspection of developed teaching materials

4.2.1 Teaching materials for preschoolers

We surveyed a K-kindergarten in December 2014 to inspect the developed picture book and its teaching guidelines. We also interviewed two former nurture persons and the disaster prevention expert who was interviewed before development.

For the survey, each kindergarten teacher read the picture book to pupils in her/his class. Readings were performed in all classes in all grades. Then, the teachers answered the questionnaire. We asked teachers seven questions: (1) Whether this picture book contains appropriate content for school children, (2) Whether the teaching guideline is easy to understand from the viewpoint of teachers, (3) Whether these materials can be used



in the classroom, (4) Whether there are any pictures or content that teachers and pupils cannot understand, (5) Whether there are any other improvements, (6) About the teacher's career and the suffering experienced by the respondent, and (7) Whether you have an interest in disaster prevention education. We also requested teachers to note the parts that are difficult to understand or which needed revision.

The questionnaire results indicated that the picture book contents were suitable for four- and five-year-old children; however, they were slightly difficult for three-year-old children, as shown in Fig.1. The picture book teaching material and its teaching guidelines were complete.

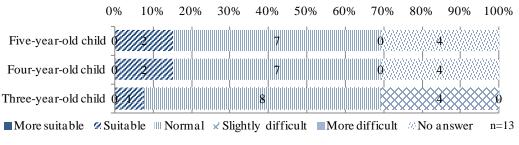


Fig. 1- Understanding level of picture book teaching material by school age

4.2.2 Teaching materials for upper grade students in elementary school

The developed teaching material and guidelines were inspected in two steps: we developed and inspected the teaching material, and we revised the teaching material and developed its guidelines. We interviewed teachers about both materials. The teaching material and its guidelines were complete.

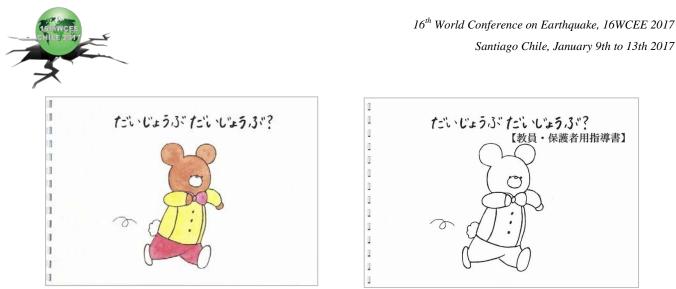
First, we interviewed an elementary school teacher and a disaster prevention expert in November 2014 for inspecting the teaching material. The interview results indicate the following: (1) with regard to the map simulation drill, a teacher should use the school districts map that each school has; (2) with regard to how to protect oneself in a dangerous situation, it is best for students to think about the best choice repeatedly; and (3) supplementary explanation about "Plates," "Giving out supplies," and so on are provided. A disaster prevention expert advised that the order of the strengths of furniture that could be overturned for protection should be shown to explain their effective use. Then, we revised the teaching materials and developed their guidelines.

Second, we interviewed two elementary school teachers in December 2014 about the revised teaching material and the guidelines. The interview results regarding the guidelines indicate that (1) the time required by each subject should be noted and (2) it is useful for teachers to show a blackboard demonstration of each subject. For the teaching material contents, we need to determine a good way to teach the topic of the simulation experience for a disaster message service and the topic of seeing what is stored in an emergency stockpile warehouse.

4.3 Completed teaching materials

4.3.1 Preschoolers' teaching material and guidelines for "Are you all right?

Our picture book is titled "Are you all right?," and its teaching guidelines are complete, as shown in Fig.2. Table 3 shows the story contents. Examples of the pages are shown below. Fig.3 shows the topic of "Damage in a room" in the picture book material. Fig.4 shows the same topic in the teaching guidelines. A detail explanation of the teaching points by school age and advanced learning contents are added in the guidelines.



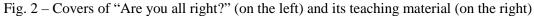




Fig. 3 – Scene of "Damage in a room" in the picture book material

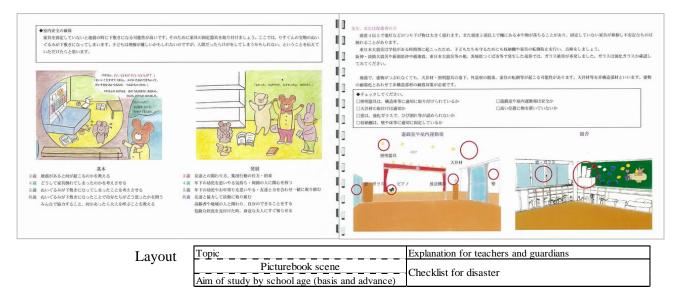


Fig. 4 – Scene of "Damage in a room" in the teaching guidelines

4.3.2 Upper grade students' teaching materials and guidelines for "Preparation for earthquake disaster" The teaching material and guidelines for "Preparation for earthquake disaster" are complete, as shown in Fig.5. Table 4 shows the story contents.





Fig. 5 – Covers of "Preparation for earthquake disaster" (on the left) and its teaching guidelines (on the right)

As shown in Table 4, this book consists of two parts: "Lessons from past earthquake disasters" and "Investigative learning: workbook." Examples of the pages are shown below. Fig.6 shows the topics of "2 Preparation for damage estimates of an earthquake with an epicenter in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area" and of "2-1 What happens when a big earthquake occurs?" in the teaching material. Fig.7 shows the same topic in the teaching guidelines. The purpose of the topic, detailed explanation, flow in the class, evaluation, example of blackboard demonstration, teaching points, and advanced learning contents are added in the guidelines.

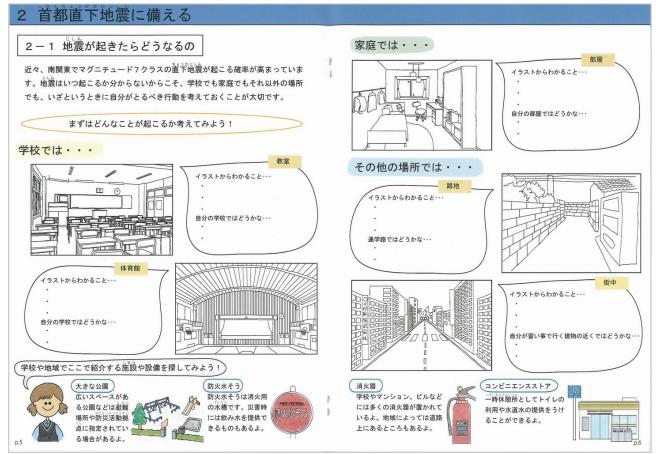
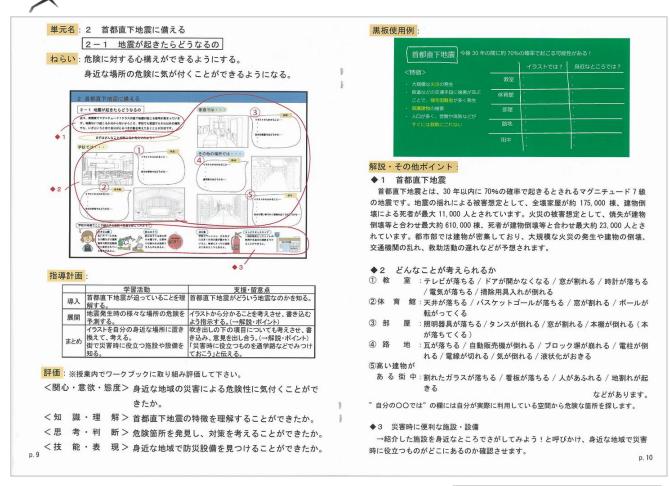


Fig. 6 – Scene of "2-1 What happens when a big earthquake occurs?" in teaching material



Layout	Aim of study	Example of blackboard
-	Material pages	demonstration
	Teaching plan	Teaching points
	Evaluation	reaching points

Fig. 7 – Scene of "2-1 What happens when a big earthquake occurs?" in the teaching guidelines

This educational program for disaster mitigation contains four main topics, because there is a difference in school class hours depending on the elementary school. A teacher who has many class hours can choose from Curriculum (1) and (2) that include all subjects; however, their number of class hours is different. Curriculum (1) is "Learning disaster then practice (six class hours)" and Curriculum (2) is "Learning repeatedly (five class hours)." A teacher who has less class hours can choose from Curriculum (3) and (4). Curriculum (3) is "Mainly learning self-help (five class hours)" and Curriculum (4) is "Mainly leaning mutual help (three class hours)."

5. Conclusions

This study aimed to examine the educational policy and purpose of MEXT and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and to propose new education materials.

Our proposed teaching materials conform to MEXT's and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's educational policy for disaster mitigation. We have completed teaching materials and teaching guidelines for preschoolers and for upper grade students in elementary school, as judged from the survey results.

We will provide these materials to educational sites for disaster mitigation.



6. Acknowledgements

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7. References

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