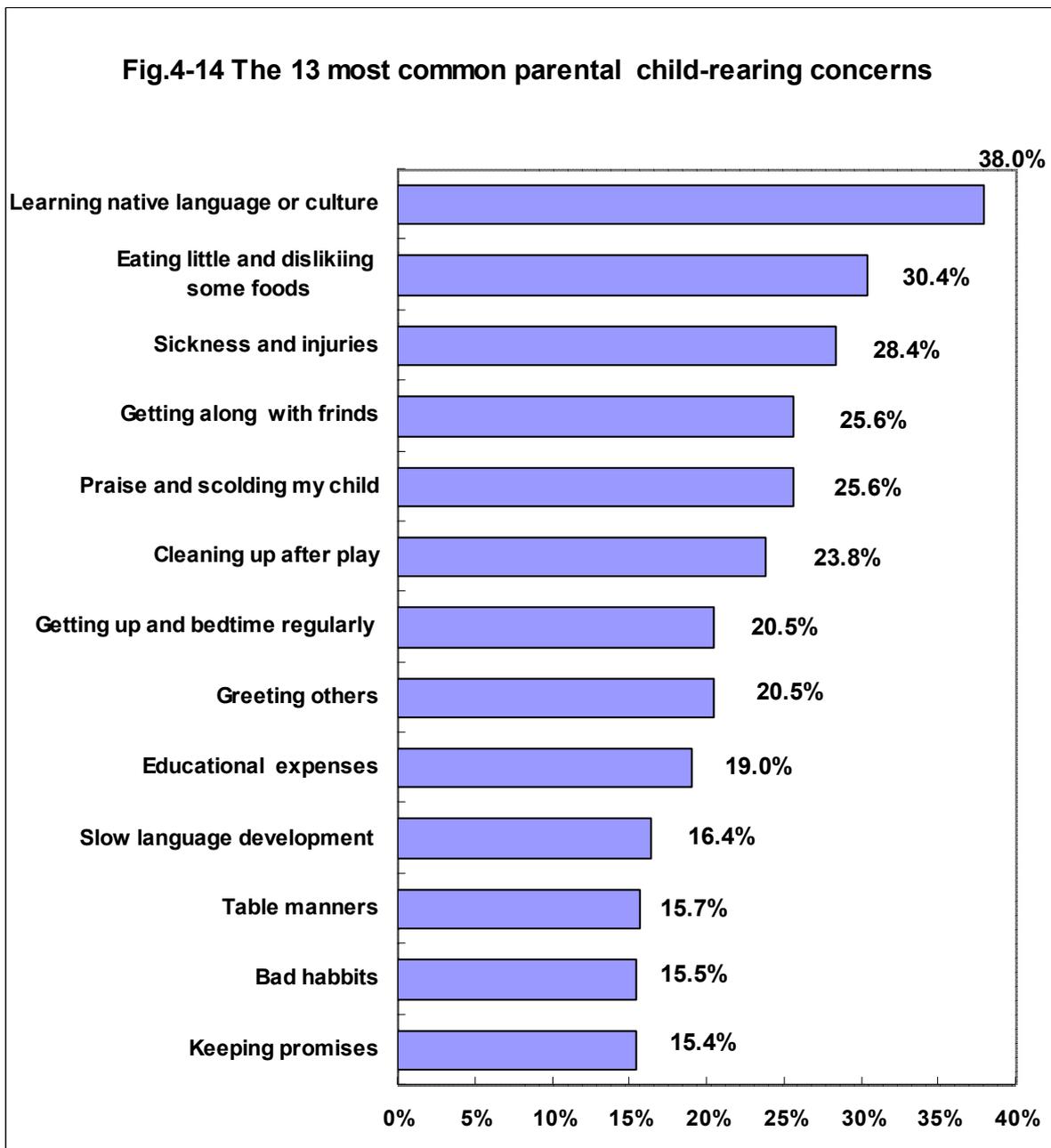


4. Parental Child-Rearing Concerns

1. Child-rearing concerns (Fig. 4-14)

We asked the parents to choose concerns they had about child-rearing problems, child discipline, and education (answers were not limited to 1 choice).

The most common reply was “learning native language or culture” 38.0%, second, “eating little and disliking certain foods” 30.4%, third, “sickness and injuries” 28.4%, followed by “getting along with friends” 25.6%, “praising and scolding my child” 25.6%, “cleaning up after playing” 23.8%, “getting up and going to bed at the same time everyday” 20.5%, “greeting others” 20.5%, “educational expenses” 19.0% and “slow in learning language ” 16.4%.



N=2002

2. Concerns according to age and gender (Table 4-1, 4-2)

In every age group, “learning native language or culture ” was in the 2 main replies, and it was evident that the younger the children, the more parents were concerned about “Sickness and injuries.”

For the less than one year olds, “sickness and injuries” was first, “vaccination and medical visits” was third, and “allergies” was fifth. Clearly, “vaccination and medical visits” and “allergies” were the main concerns for the less than one year olds.

For the one year olds, “ eating little and disliking certain foods” was third and “slow in learning language ” was fifth. “Eating little and disliking certain foods” was a main concern in all the age groups above 1 year old.

For two year olds, “learning native language or culture” was the main concern, “getting along with other children” was fifth and “toilet training” was sixth. For 3 year olds, “eating little and disliking certain foods” was the main concern. “Learning native language or culture” was the top concern for four, five and six year old children. The concern that was second was “cleaning up after playing” for five year olds, and “good sleeping habits” for six year olds.

In general, the concerns “cleaning up after playing” and “bad habits” were considered to be concerns more for girls and “slow in learning language” for boys. For boys, “sickness or injuries” and “vaccinations or medical visits” were the main concerns for the less than one year olds, “getting along with other children” and “educational expenses” for the one year olds. For above two year olds, “cleaning after playing” and for six year olds, “greeting others” were concerns listed by many parents with girls.

Table 4-1 Concerns according to age and gender

順位	0yr olds (N=60)		1yr olds (N=189)		2yrs olds(N=299)		3yrs olds(N=396)	
	boys(29)	girls(31)	boys(95)	girls(94)	boys(170)	girls(129)	boys(213)	girls(183)
1	Sickness or injuries boys 48.3 girls 29.0		Sickness or injuries 32.6 37.2		Learning native language or culture 41.2 41.9		Eating little and disliking some foods 35.7 40.4	
2	Learning native language or culture boys 31.0 girls 35.5		Learning native language or culture 33.7 27.7		Sickness or injuries 36.5 30.2		Learning native language or culture 36.6 37.7	
3	Vaccinations or medical visits boys 34.5 girls 12.9		Eating little and disliking some foods 25.3 29.8		Eating little and disliking some foods 29.4 32.6		Sickness or injuries 32.9 30.1	
4	Praising and scolding boys 31.0 girls 12.9		Praising and scolding 26.3 26.6		Praising and scolding 27.6 27.1		Praising and scolding 28.6 25.7	
5	Allergies boys 17.2 girls 16.1		Slow in learning language 23.2 26.6		Getting along with friends 28.2 24.8		Getting along with friends 28.6 25.1	
6	Getting along with friends boys 24.1 girls 9.7		Getting along with friends 27.4 19.1		Toilet training 20.0 22.5		Cleaning up after play 26.3 27.9	
7	Getting up and bedtime regularly boys 24.1 girls 9.7		Educational expenses 27.4 17.0		Educational expenses 21.2 18.6		Greeting others 24.9 24.0	
8	Educational expenses boys 17.2 girls 12.9		Toilet training 18.9 18.1		Cleaning up after play 15.3 24.0		Getting up and bedtime regularly 18.8 24.0	
9	Table manners boys 20.7 girls 6.5		Cleaning up after play 14.7 18.1		Getting up and bedtime regularly 17.6 20.9		Educational expenses 20.2 21.9	
10	Bad habits boys 10.3 girls 16.1		Table manners 11.6 17.0		Greeting others 17.6 18.6		Table manners 17.8 13.7	

(%)

Table 4-2 Concerns according to age and gender

順位	4yrs olds(N=403)		5yrs olds(N=471)		6yrs olds(N=157)		all (N=1997)	
	boys(211)	girls(192)	boys(255)	girls(216)	boys(75)	girls(82)	boys(1055)	girls(942)
1	Learning native language or culture boys 39.3 girls 41.1		Learning native language or culture 35.3 38.9		Learning native language or culture 46.7 37.8		Learning native language or culture 38.0 38.2	
2	Eating little and disliking some foods boys 31.8 girls 32.8		Cleaning up after play 27.8 30.6		Getting up and bedtime regularly 22.7 32.9		Eating little and disliking some foods 29.5 31.79	
3	Sickness or injuries boys 21.3 girls 35.9		Eating little and disliking some foods 26.7 29.6		Getting along with friends 29.3 24.4		Sickness or injuries 28.0 29.1	
4	Praising and scolding boys 25.1 girls 28.6		Getting along with friends 29.8 23.1		Eating little and disliking some foods 28.0 24.4		Getting along with friends 28.2 22.9	
5	Getting along with friends boys 26.1 girls 23.4		Sickness or injuries 23.5 23.1		Praising and scolding 24.0 26.8		Praising and scolding 26.0 25.3	
6	Cleaning up after play boys 21.8 girls 28.1		Praising and scolding 23.1 22.7		Cleaning up after play 21.3 26.8		Cleaning up after play 21.9 26.1	
7	Greeting others boys 22.3 girls 25.0		Getting up and bedtime regularly 21.6 22.2		Greeting others 17.3 25.6		Getting up and bedtime regularly 19.0 22.4	
8	Getting up and bedtime regularly boys 19.0 girls 23.4		Greeting others 20.8 20.4		Slow in learning language 20.0 19.5		Greeting others 20.3 20.8	
9	Bad habits boys 12.8 girls 22.9		Educational expenses 20.4 16.2		Educational expenses 18.7 20.7		Educational expenses 19.3 18.7	
10	Table manners boys 15.6 girls 15.6		Table manners 18.0 16.7		Keeping promises 21.3 17.1		Slow in learning language 18.3 14.4	

(%)

3. Duration of residency and child-rearing concerns (Fig. 4-15)

We looked at the concerns according to years of residency: less than 3 years, 3 to 10 years, 10 to 20 years and over 20 years. The shorter the time the parents had lived in Japan, the higher the rates were for “getting along with other children”, “vaccinations or medical visits” and “slow in learning language”, and as the years of residency increased, the main concern was “praising and scolding my child.” Many parents who had lived in Japan for less than ten years replied “sickness or injuries,” while parents whose duration of residency was 3 to 20 years were concerned about “learning native language or culture” and “eating little and disliking certain foods.”

We compared the replies of parents who had lived in Japan for less than three years, and found that for 24.4% of the parents who had been in Japan less than 1 year, 32.1% of those for 1 to 2 years, and 45.4% of those for 2 to 3 years, “learning native language or culture” was their main concern, which shows that the rate increased as their years in Japan increased. The same trend could be seen for concerns about “eating little and disliking certain foods”, “vaccinations or medical visits” and “slow in learning language.”

51.2% of the parents who had lived in Japan for less than one year, 32.1% for 1 to 2 years and 22.1% for 2 to 3 years replied that “getting along with other children” was a concern. Here, we see that the rates decreased as the parents’ years in Japan increased. We did not find any significant differences for “sickness or injuries.”

4. Child-rearing concerns by Parent Nationality (Table 4-3,4-4,4-5)

Although the number and age of the children of those surveyed differed according to parent nationality, we took a look at these factors in order to determine a trend. The concerns for which we could find differences were “learning native language or culture”, “cleaning up after playing”, “eating little and disliking certain foods”, “vaccinations or medical visits” and “praising and scolding.”

“Learning native language or culture” was the main concern for Japanese, Chinese, South Korean, Brazilian and American parents. “Cleaning up after playing” was the main of Taiwanese, and “Eating little and disliking certain foods” was the main concern for Thai, Filipino, and Vietnamese parents. “Keeping promises” was the main concern for Peruvian parents, third for Brazilian parents. “Vaccinations or medical visits” was second for Brazilians. “Praising and scolding” was first for North Koreans, and was also in the main concern for Japanese, Taiwanese, Brazilian and South Korean parents. Since some of the concerns came from differences in national systems and cultures, it is important that we understand the cultural background of the countries.

5. Child-rearing Concerns : Comparison with Japanese Mothers (Table 4-6, 4-7)

We compared the research done by Yamaoka (2000) on Japanese mothers and the concerns selected by mothers in the questionnaire. Although there were differences in the number of questions and answers, we selected information according to age using comments that were found in both studies, for example, “eating little and disliking certain foods,” “getting along with other friends,” “cleaning up after playing,” “going to bed and waking up at the same time everyday,” “greeting others,” and “keeping promises”

For mothers with 1 to 2 year olds, we found that all concerns except for “eating little and disliking certain foods,” were rated higher as main concerns by Japanese mothers.

The difference here is that mothers of foreign nationality and those that do not speak Japanese have other concerns to deal with, such as learning Japanese.

6. Free Comments from “Other Concerns”

Below are some comments that were written in the “others” section of the questionnaire. Although there were many comments on child habits and allergies, they have been omitted here.

Economic Problems

“Since I am a foreigner, there is a difference in my salary compared to that of a Japanese, which makes it difficult economically. (day-care center 5th year, girl / father, 34 yrs old / Iran / 5 yrs)

“Since we have no health insurance, we must rely on a pharmacy even if we are suffering from pain” (day-care center 2nd year, boy / mother, 32 yrs old / South Korea / 3 yrs)

Housing Problems

“Since homes are small, there is not enough space for my child to run around when playing” (day-care center 3rd year, girl / mother, 34yrs old / South Korea / 6 yrs)

“The streets leading to the day-care centers are dangerous. We have to go through places that have no roads for bicycles” (day-care center 4th year, boy / mother 32 yrs old / South Korea / 0 yrs)

Child Rearing policies

“I am Islamic and do not know how to teach my child our prayers and differences in eating customs” (day-care center 1st year, girl / mother, 26 yrs / Bangladesh / 6 yrs)

“I worry about my child is unhappy if not treated the same as others. I feel that I must teach my child to take good care of things, help the weak, respect elders and to be able to live in any kind of an environment” (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 36 yrs old / China / 10 yrs)

“Japanese people have no interest in discipline or attitudes towards others and are too dependent on having an abundance of things around them. Moreover, I worry about children becoming completely used to this.” (day-care center 3rd year, girl / mother, 39 yrs old/ Peru / 11 yrs)

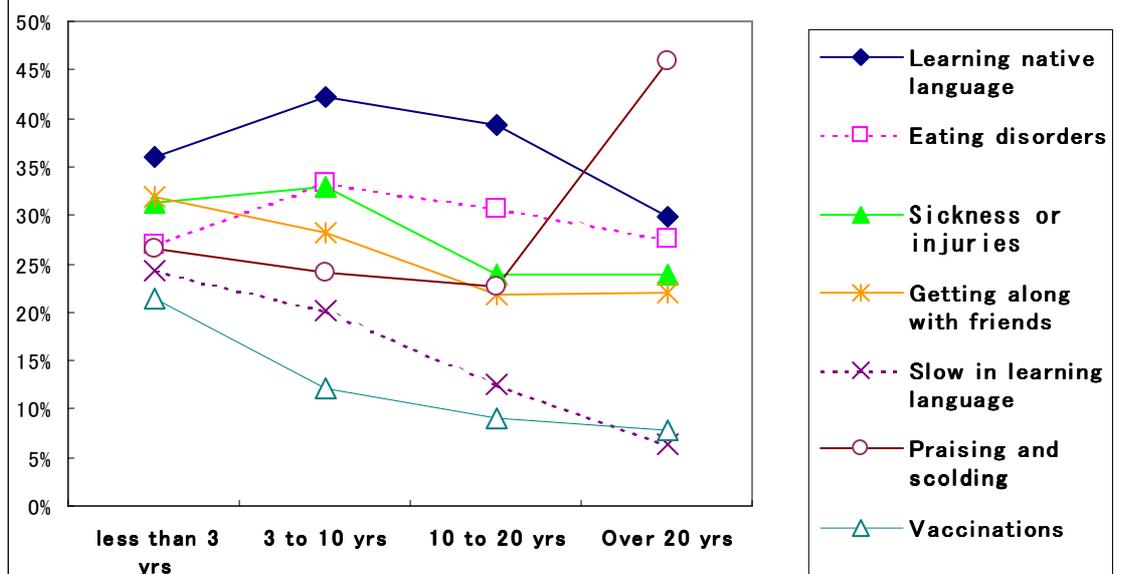
“In Japan, people do not respect elders, so my child also does not respect elders. This will be a problem when we go back to Thailand” (day-care center 3rd year, girl / mother, 32 yrs old / Thailand / 11yrs)

Proposal

“I think that Japanese preschools do not know enough about the culture and education of other countries. I feel that it is a very closed and uniform society. Can’t it be a bit more flexible?” (day-care center 5th year, boy / father, 38 yrs old / Morocco / 9 yrs)

Preschool or Kindergarten, class level, gender, relationship of the person replying, age, nationality, residential duration are shown in parenthesis

Fig. 4-15 Duration of residency and child-rearing concerns



N=1884

Table 4-3 Child-rearing concerns by parent nationality

順位	Japanese (N=295)	Chinese (N=571)	Taiwanese (N=65)	South Korean (N=316)
1	Learning native language or culture 44.5	Learning native language or culture 57.3	Cleaning up after playing 44.8	Learning native language or culture 38.7
2	Eating little and disliking certain foods 35.3	Sickness or injuries 41.6	Learning native language or culture 41.4	Praising and scolding 38.0
3	Praising and scolding 34.6	Eating little and disliking certain foods 37.3	Praising and scolding 41.4	Cleaning up after playing 31.0
4	Sickness or injuries 32.0	Getting along with other children 34.6	Eating little and disliking certain foods 37.9	Getting along with other children 30.3
5	Cleaning up after playing 30.5	Greeting others 26.0	Sickness or injuries 34.5	Good sleeping habits 27.3
6	Getting along with other children 28.7	Cleaning up after play 25.7	Greeting others 29.3	Eating little and disliking certain foods 26.7
7	Greeting others 23.9	Praising and scolding 24.3	Getting along with other children 25.9	Greeting others 24.3
8	Eating with good manners 23.5	Slow in learning language 24.0	Good sleeping habits 24.1	Sickness or injuries 22.3
9	Bad habits 22.8	Eating with good manners 22.3	Eating with good manners 22.4	Educational expenses 19.3
10	Educational expenses 22.1	Educational expenses 21.0	Keeping promises 17.2	Allergies 17.7

(%)

Table 4-4 Child-rearing concerns by parent nationality

順位	North Korean (N=40)	Thai (N=50)	Filipino (N=205)	Vietnamese (N=40)
1	Praising and scolding 45.7	Eating little and disliking certain foods 36.2	Eating little and disliking certain foods 33.0	Eating little and disliking certain foods 37.8
2	Sickness or injuries 37.1	Sickness or injuries 34.0	Good sleeping habits 28.6	Learning native language or culture 35.1
3	Learning native language or culture 31.4	Slow in learning language 34.0	Sickness or injuries 24.2	
4	Educational expenses 31.4		Praising and scolding 29.8	Educational expenses 20.3
5	Cleaning up after play 28.6	Learning native language or culture 27.7	Getting along with other children 19.2	Sickness or injuries 21.6
6	Eating with good manners 25.7	Keeping promises 27.7	Praising and scolding 18.7	Greeting others 21.6
7	Getting along with other children 22.9	Eating with good manners 25.5	Cleaning up after playing 17.6	Cleaning up after playing 21.6
8	Keeping promises 20.0	Educational expenses 25.5	Allergies 17.0	Getting along with other children 18.9
9	Allergies 17.1	Allergies 23.4	Bad habits 17.0	Keeping promises 16.2
10	Good sleeping habits 14.3	Vaccinations or medical visits 23.4	Socialization trouble 15.4	Vaccinations or medical visits 16.2

(%)

Table 4-5 Child-rearing concerns by parent nationality

順位	Brazilian (N=65)	Peruvian (N=41)	American (N=31)	Others (N=191)
1	Learning native language or culture 51.7	Keeping promises 33.3	Learning native language or culture 62.1	Eating little and disliking certain foods 42.0
2	Vaccinations or medical visits 41.7	Learning native language or culture 30.8	Educational expenses 31.0	Learning native language or culture 36.1
3	Keeping promises 35.0	Eating little and disliking certain foods 30.8	Educational expenses 27.6	Sickness or injuries 29.6
4	Praising and scolding 35.0	Slow in learning language 30.8	Good sleeping habits 27.6	Cleaning up after playing 26.0
5	Getting along with other children 31.7	Eating with good manners 25.6	Eating with good manners 24.1	Educational expenses 23.7
6	Eating little and disliking certain foods 23.3	Praising and scolding 25.6	Getting along with other children 20.7	Praising and scolding 22.5
7	Sickness or injuries 23.3	Getting along with other children 23.1	Eating little and disliking certain foods 20.7	Eating with good manners 21.9
8	Educational expenses 18.3	Sickness or injuries 20.5	Slow in learning language 20.7	Good sleeping habits 20.1
9	Good sleeping habits 18.3	Vaccinations or medical visits 20.5	Praising and scolding 20.7	Getting along with other children 19.5
10	Allergies 16.7	Good sleeping habits 17.9	Cleaning up after playing 17.2	Bad habits 19.5
	Cleaning up after playing 16.7	Allergies 17.9		

(%)

Table4-6 Child-rearing concerns : Comparison with Japanese mothers' (By age and gender)

		1yr olds		2yr olds		3yr olds	
		boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls
Eating little and disliking certain foods	foreign mothers	25.3	29.8	29.4	32.6	35.7	40.4
	Japanese mothers	15.2	25.0	25.0	33.3	41.5	37.7
Getting along with other children	foreign mothers	27.4	19.1	28.2	24.8	28.6	25.1
	Japanese mothers	27.3	32.1	40.0	52.8	47.5	43.7
Cleaning up after playing	foreign mothers	14.7	18.1	15.3	24.0	26.3	27.9
	Japanese mothers	21.2	32.1	22.5	50.0	48.1	44.3
Good sleeping habits	foreign mothers	11.6	16.0	17.6	20.9	18.8	24.0
	Japanese mothers	21.2	25.0	15.0	33.3	32.8	28.7
Greeting others	foreign mothers	12.6	11.7	17.6	18.6	24.9	24.0
	Japanese mothers	15.2	21.4	32.5	33.3	45.9	31.7
Keeping promises	foreign mothers	13.7	12.8	11.8	12.4	20.7	15.8
	Japanese mothers	26.9	38.1	35.0	41.7	45.4	32.9

(%)

Table4-7 Child-rearing concerns : Comparison with Japanese mothers' (By age and gender)

		4yr olds		5yr olds		6yr olds	
		boys	girls	boys	girls	boys	girls
Eating little and disliking certain foods	foreign mothers	31.8	32.8	26.7	29.6	28.0	24.4
	Japanese mothers	31.5	34.6	33.1	30.9	38.8	24.6
Getting along with other children	foreign mothers	26.1	23.4	29.8	23.1	29.3	24.4
	Japanese mothers	44.1	46.4	38.4	39.1	36.5	36.9
Cleaning up after playing	foreign mothers	21.8	28.1	27.8	30.6	21.3	26.8
	Japanese mothers	47.8	50.2	57.0	45.9	43.5	49.2
Good sleeping habits	foreign mothers	19.0	23.4	21.6	22.2	22.7	32.9
	Japanese mothers	29.8	34.6	31.1	30.0	32.9	23.1
Greeting others	foreign mothers	22.3	25.0	20.8	20.4	17.3	25.6
	Japanese mothers	39.7	39.7	42.1	45.9	41.2	46.2
Keeping promises	foreign mothers	16.6	13.5	16.5	15.3	21.3	17.1
	Japanese mothers	40.3	36.7	38.7	33.9	40.0	26.2

(%)

5. *The Main Child Rearing Concerns*

1. Main child-rearing concerns (Fig. 4-16)

We had the parents choose their most serious concerns on child rearing and write about them. The results were “teaching native language or culture” 23.0%, “sickness and injuries” 12.5%, “eating little and disliking certain foods” 9.4%, “praising and scolding my child” 8.0%, “getting along with other children” 6.5%, “slow in learning language” 6.3%, “educational expenses” 5.5%, “allergies” 4.4% and “bad habits ” 3.9%

2. Main concerns by age (Table 4-8 , 4-9)

Certain characteristics could be found among the main concerns by age. For parents with children less than one year old, “sickness and injuries” was the main concern. This concern was also among the 3 main concerns for all age groups, showing that this is a critical issue.

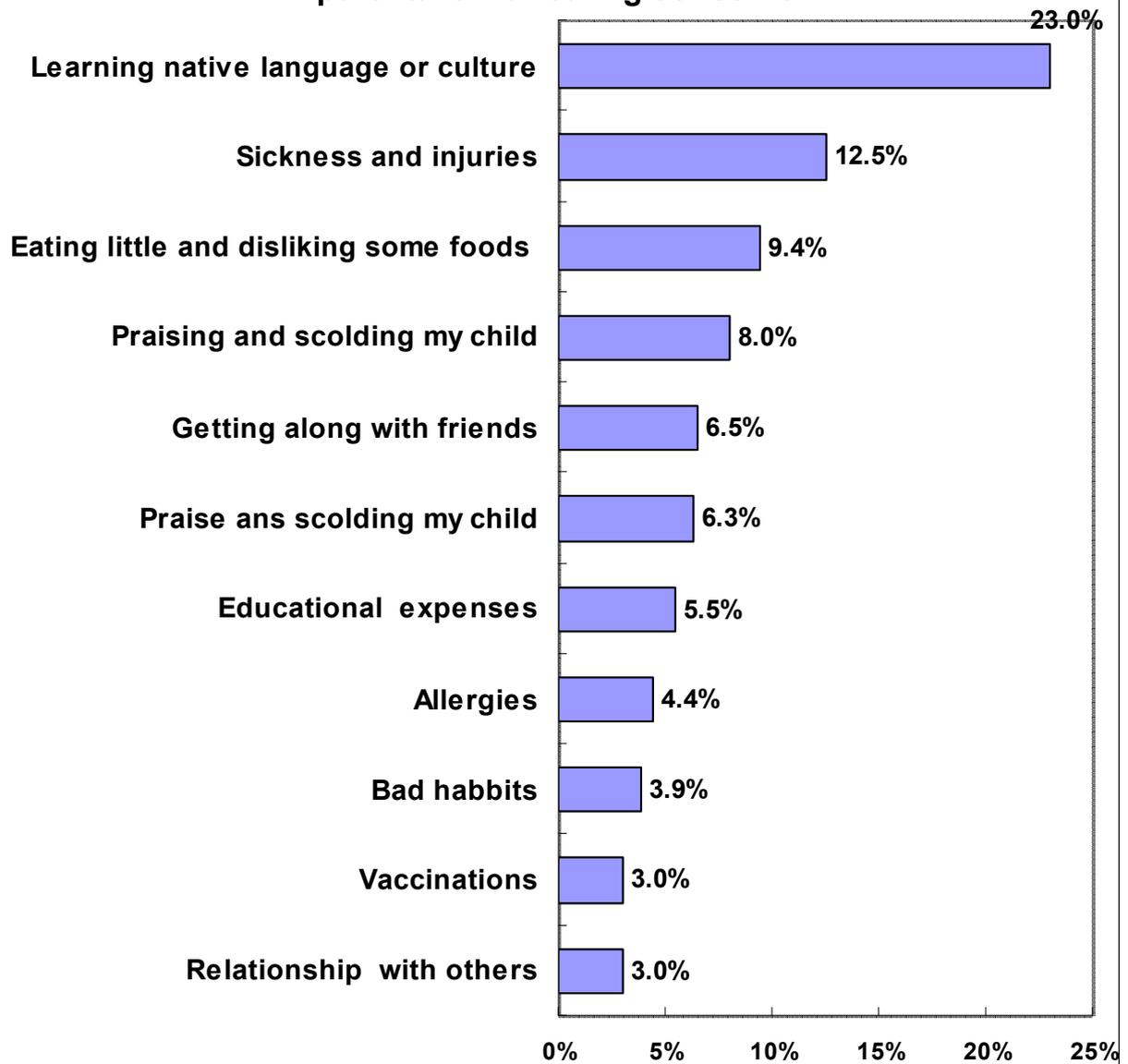
“Learning native language or culture” was the main concern for parents with children over the age of two. “Allergies” was the 4th main concern among parents with children less than one year old and was also in the top 10 in other age groups. From this, we see that there are many parents who worry about how to deal with children who have allergies. The concern “eating little and disliking certain foods” was highly ranked among parents with children between the ages of one and five years old, but fell to the 7th main concern among parents with six year olds. “Getting along with other children” and “slow in learning language” were ranked highly for six year olds, and except for less than one year olds, “educational expenses” were selected.

3. Main concerns according to length of residency (Fig 4-17)

We examined the concerns of parents who had been in Japan for less than 3 years, 3 to less than 10 years, 10 to less than 20 years, and over 20 years. “Sickness and injuries”, “getting along with other children” and “slow in learning language” were concerns chosen by many parents whose residency was less than 3 years. Concerns that were not seen much in this group but concerns which increased as the duration became 3 to less than 10 years were “learning native language or culture”, “eating little and disliking certain foods” and “bad habits”. “Praising and scolding my child” was a concern that was chosen by many parents who had lived in Japan for over 20 years.

When we compared the concerns of fathers and mothers, we found out that many fathers selected “teaching native language or culture” and “educational expenses” as their concerns, while the mothers chose “praising and scolding my child”, “allergies”, “vaccinations and medical visits”, and “relationship with others”

Fig.4-16 The 11 main parental child-rearing concerns



N=1421

Table4-8 The main child-rearing concerns by age

	less than 1yr olds (N=37)	1yr olds (N=137)	2yr olds (N=214)	3yr olds (N=287)
1	Sickness or injuries 32.4	Sickness or injuries 19.0	Learning native language or culture 24.8	Learning native language or culture 22.0
2	Learning native language or culture 18.9	Slow in learning language 13.1	Sickness or injuries 14.5	Eating little and disliking certain foods 11.8
3	Vaccinations or medical visits 10.8	Learning native language or culture 12.4	Eating little and disliking certain foods 9.3	Sickness or injuries 11.5
4	Allergies 8.1	Eating little and disliking certain foods 10.2	Praising and scolding 7.5	Praising and scolding 10.8
5	Getting along with other children 8.1	Praising and scolding 8.8	Getting along with other children 6.1	Slow in learning language 5.9
6	Relationships with others 5.4	Educational expenses 6.6	Toilet training 5.1	Educational expenses 5.6
7	Eating little and disliking certain foods 2.7	Getting along with other children 5.8	Allergies 4.7	Allergies 5.2
8	Greeting others 2.7	Bad habits 4.4	Good sleeping habits 4.2	Bad habits 5.2
9	Bad habits 2.7	Allergies 3.6	Slow in learning language 4.2	Getting along with other children 4.9
10	Good sleeping habits 2.7	Others 3.6	Educational expenses 3.7	Greeting others 3.1

(%)

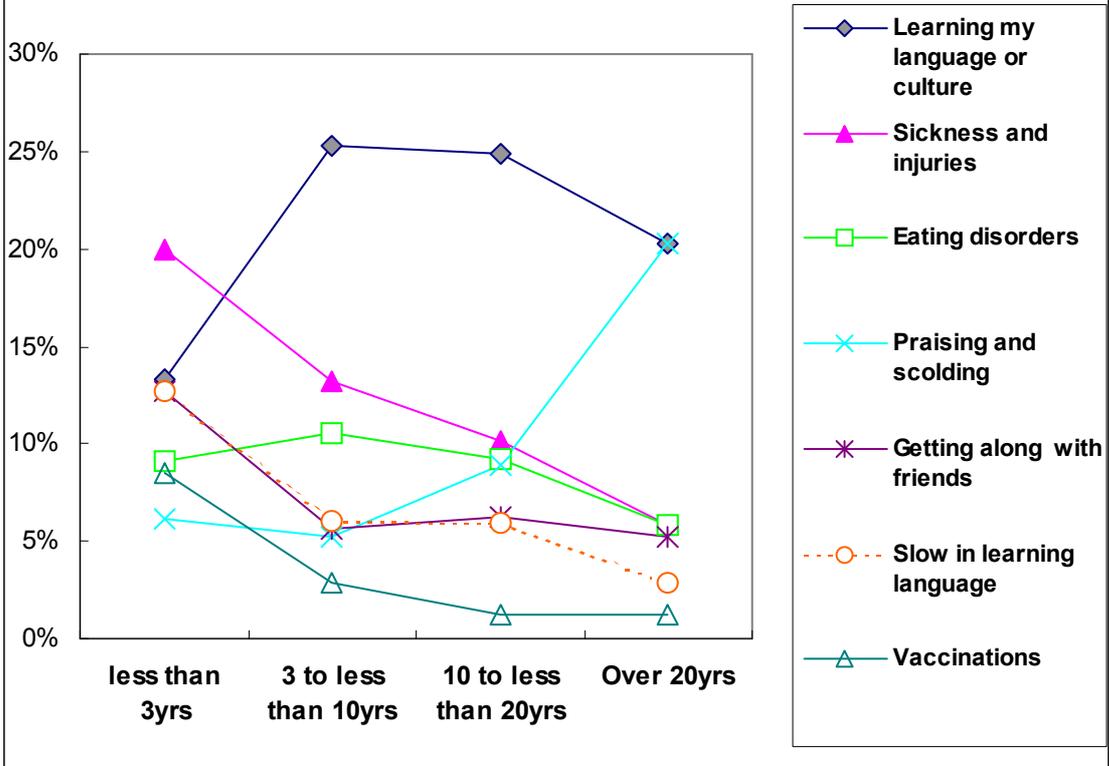
Table4-9 The main child-rearing concerns by age

	4yr olds (N=285)	5yr olds (N=335)	6yr olds (N=113)	Total (N=1418)
1	Learning native language or culture 22.8	Learning native language or culture 26.3	Learning native language or culture 27.4	Learning native language or culture 23.0
2	Sickness or injuries 14.0	Eating little and disliking certain foods 8.7	Getting along with other children 9.7	Sickness or injuries 12.5
3	Eating little and disliking certain foods 10.2	Sickness or injuries 7.5	Sickness or injuries 8.0	Eating little and disliking certain foods 9.4
4	Praising and scolding 7.0	Getting along with other children 7.5	Slow in learning language 8.0	Praising and scolding 8.0
5	Getting along with other children 6.3	Praising and scolding 7.2	Praising and scolding 7.1	Getting along with other children 6.5
6	Slow in learning language 4.9	Educational expenses 6.9	Educational expenses 7.1	Slow language development 6.3
7	Allergies 4.6	Slow in learning language 6.3	Eating little and disliking certain foods 5.3	Educational expenses 5.5
8	Vaccinations or medical visits 4.6	Bad habits 4.2	Good sleeping habits 5.3	Allergies 4.4
9	Educational expenses 4.6	Allergies 3.9	Relationships with others 4.4	Bad habits 3.9
10	Bad habits 4.2	Others 3.6	Allergies 2.7	Vaccinations 3.0 Relationships with others 3.0

N=1418

(%)

fig.4-17 Main child-rearing concerns according to the duration of residency



N=1370

4. Parental main concerns comments (Table 4-9)

Since there were numerous comments on main concerns, they have been divided into the following groups.

Comments on the number one concern “learning native language or culture” were that “there are not many opportunities for my child to learn their native language (culture and/or religious)” 54.8%, “worry that my child will not learn or cannot speak our native language ” 42.7%, “I would like my child to be bilingual” 14.1%. Carrying on the parents’ native language and culture is a diverse and complex problem since it involves the language used at home and the spouse’s nationality. Although parents may teach their native language to their children at home, when Japanese becomes more natural for the child, maintaining their interest in their native language is difficult. Also, parents find limitations in teaching their native language at home and look for opportunities for their child to learn their language.

There are other parents who worry about their children learning multiple languages at once, the difficulties and effects of absorbing knowledge using multiple languages. In homes where Japanese is used, as the child’s Japanese ability improves, this may lead to the separation of feelings between the children and parents who cannot speak Japanese well.

For the concern that was second, “sickness and injuries,” we received comments such as: “my child is physically weakness or getting injured often” 77.4%, “I must take days off when my child gets sick” 13.1% and “my child is constantly sick and I get stressed out” 8.3%. In more detail, many parents did not know where hospitals and other medical institutions were located, were worried about taking their children to the hospital on holidays and at night, understanding what the doctors were saying, economic concerns due to taking days off from work, which led to concerns that they may lose their jobs. This was also mentioned in 3. Sick Child Care.

Comments on the third concern “eating little and disliking certain foods” were “concerns about having an unbalanced diet ” 55.7%, “does not eat enough and only eats what the child likes” 43.0%, “differences in foods and eating habits” 8.9%. There was also a comment that parent were confused since their child seems to like the food at their preschools or Japanese food better than their food at home.

For the 4th concern “praising and scolding”, there were comments such as “ I want to know how to balance praising and scolding” 59.5%, “I scold my child according to my mood” 27.8%, “I do not have confidence in the way of raising my child” 12.7%. Regarding the next concern, “getting along with other children,” 63.0% said that “my child cannot play with friends, or am worried that my child may not be able to play with others,” 25.9% said that their child is “being bullied or ignored,” and 13.0% commented on “fighting with friends”

These concerns are things the parents are concerned about regardless of nationality.

Regarding “slow in learning language”, 28.6% commented that “my child gets confused learning multiple languages” 28.6%, “slow progress in learning language” 26.8%, “my child’s Japanese ability is not improving” 23.2%. In addition, we received various comments such as the following: “My child will not learn and cannot speak my native language” 16.1%, “I worry whether or not my child will be made fun of by his/her friends” 8.9%, “my Japanese is not improving” 8.9%, “there are not many opportunities where my child can learn our native language, culture and religion” 7.1%.

Regarding “vaccinations or medical visits”, 63.0% of the comments were about the

vaccinations themselves. Parents were concerned that time and numbers of shots differs among countries, that in Japan they do not know when, where, or at what age their child should get the shots. Also, there were parents did not know what to do if they were unable to get the vaccinations since the information is in Japanese and they cannot understand it.

Table4-10 Parent main concern comments

whole (N=909)		the contents (1115)			
1	Learning native language or culture 23.0	Few opportunities for child to learn native language and culture 54.8	My child will not learn or cannot speak native language 42.7	I want my child to be bilingual 14.1	
2	Sickness or injuries 12.5	Physically weakness or getting injured often 77.4	I'm obliged to take off from work 13.1	I feel stress because my child is often sick 8.3	
3	Eating little and disliking certain foods 9.4	My child's unbalanced diet and nutrition 55.7	Inappropriate amount of food for my child 43.0	The differences in our foods and eating habits 8.9	
4	Praising and scolding 8.0	I want to know how to praise and scold my child 59.5	I scold my child according to my mood 27.8	No confidence in the way of raising my child 12.7	
5	Getting along with other children 6.5	My child cannot play with friends 63.0	My child is bullied and alienated 25.9	My child fights with others 13.0	
6	Slow in learning language 6.3	My child's confusion in learning multiple languages 28.6	My child's slow progress in Japanese 26.8	My child's Japanese is not improving 23.2	
7	Educational expenses 5.5	High educational expenses 51.1	My low income 33.3	High expense of day-care centers 11.1	
8	Allergies 4.4	Allergies such as asthma and atopy 66.7	I feel stress because my child is often sick 20.5	Physically weakness or getting injured often 12.8	
9	Bad habits 3.9	Bad hygienic habits, such as thumb sucking 89.5	Not playing with friends 7.9	Doing things his/her own way 5.3	
10	Vaccinations or medical visits 3.0	How to take Vaccinations 63.0	My child is physically weakness 11.1	I feel stress because my child is often sick 11.1	
	Relationships with others 3.0	Socializing with Japanese parents 24.1	Socializing with colleagues 20.7	I would like the Japanese to have better understanding of foreigners 10.3	

(%)

6. Free description answers about items parents' main concerns

There are not many opportunities to learn my native language and culture

“The problem is that my child does not know my native language and culture. Since I am unable to be with my child due to work, I do not have time to teach my child Chinese” (day-care center 4th year, boy / mother, 31 yrs old / China / 8 yrs)

“Our family goes to South Korea twice a year, and my child can speak Korean while we are there. However, as soon as we come back to Japan, he forgets it. The place where they teach Korean is located far away, so I cannot decide whether to take him there or not” (day-care center 5th year, boy / mother, 33 yrs old / South Korea / 5 yrs)

My child does not want to learn or cannot speak my native language

“I would like my child to learn French with ease, but since my child does not see the necessity, he sometimes objects” (day-care center 5th year, boy / mother, 43 yrs old / France/ 24 yrs)

“It seems that for my child, Japanese is his native language since he speaks it daily. I try to teach him Chinese but he does not understand when I try to teach him. I am having trouble since he refuses to learn it.” (day-care center 5th year, boy / mother, 32 yrs old / Japan / 15 yrs)

“Japanese is the only language used at preschool and on TV at home. For the children, Japanese is becoming their first language and trying to teach them their native language or culture is very difficult. In other countries, TV programs are aired in various languages. I envy those who can naturally learn various languages.” (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 35 yrs old/ China / 12 yrs)

Concerns on learning multiple languages

“Since my child is in a Japanese environment at preschool and in an Arabic one at home, I worry about how this will effect her future language development” (day-care center 0 year, girl / mother, 23 yrs old / Palestine / 1 yr)

“My child hears French, Japanese and English. I worry about what kind of effect this will have on her language ability.” (preschool 1st year girl / mother 35 yrs old, France, 3 yrs)

“My husband is Egyptian and I am German. We communicate in English but my child speaks Japanese at the day-care center and we worry whether she can learn 4 languages. (day-care center 0 year, girl / mother, 31 yrs old / German / 7yrs)

We cannot communicate at home

“Our son communicates mainly in Japanese. My husband cannot speak Japanese, so I worry that they will not be able to communicate. He speaks to our son in French, but since my son goes to the day-care center, he only understands Japanese” (day-care center 1st year, boy / mother, 33 yrs old / Japan / 33 yrs)

“Since our children understand Japanese better than my native language, Spanish, I worry whether or not we are communicating when I speak to them in Spanish” (day-care center 2nd year, boy / mother, 38 yrs old / Peru / 10 yrs)

My child cannot interact with their grandparents

“Since we only speak Japanese at home, I am unable to teach my child my native language. I hope someday that my child will be able to communicate with my parents.” (day-care center 1st year, boy / mother, 25 yrs old / China / 6 yrs)

Japanese Language Concerns

“I worry about a language gap since my child cannot communicate with me and my husband. I studied Japanese at the city hall but do not have many opportunities to use it, and since I began working, my Japanese has not improved” (kindergarten boy / mother, 41 yrs old / Thailand / 7 yrs)

“Since my Japanese ability is poor, I am only able to speak in basic Japanese. My son who spends a lot of time with me can only speak basic Japanese as well” (day-care center 4th year, boy / mother, 30 yrs old / Japan / 7 yrs)

Concerns about a child getting sick

“My main concern is about my child getting sick. Since I do not understand Japanese, I always have to ask a friend to translate for me. Also, I am having problems since I do not have much experience in raising a child.” (day-care center 0 yrs, boy / mother, 31 yrs old / China / 1 yr)

“I worry about taking my child to the hospital, especially during an emergency. At night time, they will not examine my child unless she is taken there by an ambulance.” (day-care center 2nd year, girl / mother, 35 yrs old / Philippines, less than one year)

Children’s sickness and parents’ work

“My son just turned 1 year old and since he is small, he gets sick very easily and occasionally cannot attend day-care center for a week. I cannot take many consecutive days off work, so I would appreciate it if the day-care center would look after my child even if he is not feeling well.” (day-care center 0 years, boy / mother, 28 yrs old / Japan / 28 yrs)

Worries on eating habits

“I worry about my daughter’s eating habits. She only eats what she likes. She likes the lunch at the day-care center, but I cannot prepare the meals like the ones there and I do not know what to do” (day-care center 2nd year, girl / mother, 30 years / China / 3 yrs)

“I worry about my child’s eating habits because he eats Japanese food at the day-care center and my native food at home” (day-care center 2nd year, boy / mother, 30 yrs old / South Korea / 3 yrs)

Bad habits

“My daughter has a nail biting habit so I have not clipped them in 2 years. Please tell me a good way to make my daughter stop this habit” (day-care center 4th year, girl / mother, 40 years old / China / 13 yrs)

Discipline

“I am very busy working and I tend to be too strict with my child. I feel that I may be too harsh with my children.” (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 38 yrs old / China / 38 yrs)

Worries on vaccination

“I worry about vaccinations since the system in Japan differs from that of Brazil. I do not know when or where I should take my child because I cannot read Japanese ” (day-care center 4th year, girl / mother, 29 yrs old / Japan / 3 yrs)

Child’s relationship with friends

“I must be careful that my daughter will not hurt others when playing or will not be bullied by others who are prejudice” (day-care center 5th year, boy / mother, 38 yrs old, Brazil / 8 years)

“I worry since I heard from my daughter’s friend that my child is being bullied by other children” (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 35 yrs old / Philippines / 12 yrs)

Relationship with Others

“Since I cannot communicate my husband, we do not talk at all. My husband does not cooperate in child-raising so I worry about how things will turn in out in the future. (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 38 yrs old)

“When I am having trouble with the people around me, I tend to take it out on my child.” (day-care center 5th year, girl / mother, 29 yrs old / 5 yrs)

“My mother in law is always criticizing and scolding me” (day-care center 5 boy / mother 35 yrs old / 5 yrs)

“The parents of my child’s friends tend to avoid my child since he is half Japanese” (day-care center 5th year, boy / mother, 35 / 10 yrs)

Economic concerns

“I worry that since everything is so expensive in Japan, we will have a large amount of educational expenses as my daughter grows up (day-care center 2nd years, girl . mother, 32 yrs old / 7 yrs)

“We are doing OK now, but since my salary is not high, I worry that the money we can set aside for future educational expenses will be limited. I also worry about whether or not we will have enough money to go on with our present life” (day-care center 3rd year, girl / mother, 36 yrs old / 3 yrs)

Preschool or Kindergarten, class level, gender, relationship of the person replying, age, nationality, residential duration are shown in parenthesis

Column: How do parents deal with child-rearing anxieties?

Table4-11 The 20 most common items parents listed as "the most concerned"

	Contents	%
1	There are few opportunities for my child to learn my native language or culture.	13.5
2	My child will not learn or cannot speak my native language	11.1
3	My child is physically weak or gets injured often.	10.3
4	My child cannot play with friends.	6.2
5	I want to know how to praise and scold my child.	5.7
6	I am concerned about my child's unbalanced diet and nutrition.	5.5
7	I want my child to be bilingual	5.4
8	I am worried about the appropriate amount of food for my child	4.8
9	My child has bad hygienic habits, such as thumb sucking or nail-biting.	4.1
10	My child might suffer from asthma, allergies or skin problems	3.6
11	My child gets up late and goes to bed late.	3.3
12	Educational expenses are too high.	3.2
13	I'm under stress because my child is often sick.	3.1
14	My child is bullied and alienated.	3.1
15	I'm worried about my child's progress in Japanese	3.0
16	I scold my child according to my moods.	2.7
17	My Japanese is not improve	2.7
18	How to get adequate vaccinations	2.5
19	I am skeptical about Japanese education	2.4
20	My child is slow in language development.	2.3

Parental child-rearing concerns, and "the most concerned," indicate to us the reality of foreign parents or parents whose native language is not Japanese. The table 4-11 lists the most common concerns and the ratio of all.

These concerns can be classified into three categories: (1) Native language, culture, religion and related issues on one's identity (2) Sickness and injury, and related issues on physical problems (3) Dieting, playing with other children, how to praise and scold children and general child-rearing issues. Parents have additional problems not understanding Japanese language.

It is necessary to understand that many parents take their native language, culture, and religion seriously. They also need the opportunity for their children to learn their native language.

Parents who have resided in Japan for less than a decade need to be informed on child rearing in multi-languages. For example, they want information on medical institutions and vaccines, conversations at medical institutions, and counseling on child rearing. Also, they need better interpretation services and more effective use of multi-linguistic conversation cards, which were already published by some preschool, medical institutions, municipalities, and

volunteer groups.

It is important to understand the cultural backgrounds of others, and to expand their circle of communication. Note the following comment by a parent:

"It is impossible to raise a child when we don't understand the child's native language and culture. In that case, it's impossible for the children to understand and trust their teachers like their parents. Wherever they live, children's culture is the priority and everything else comes the next. In Japan, however, children are supposed to learn Japanese culture and language first. Am I wrong to think this?" (Nursery school, 3 years-old, boy / father, 32 years-old / America / 7 years)