**Implementing developmentally appropriate strategies for young learners in EFL**

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To make the Japanese holidays lesson appropriate for very young learners:

1. Reduce the amount of writing. Increase the amount of cutting, gluing, and drawing. .
2. Increase the amount of clip art and photos on worksheets.
3. For early elementary students, use props such as flashcards or a calendar.
4. For kindergarteners, talk about what season the holiday is in, rather than the month.

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| Elementary | Kindergarten |
| Memory card game | 1. Put one set of flashcards face down on the table. 2. Give each child one card from the matching set. 3. Let the children take turns peeking under the cards on the table to find a match. 4. TIP: Don’t put too many cards on the table at once! |
| Tic-tac-toe or bingo | The goal is to mark every space on the card.  TIP: A nine space card is ideal. |
| Board games with dice | Each child has their own pawn with their face on it, made from a plastic bottle top.  Students stand up to roll a large foam die. |

To find out more about what children can reasonably be expected to do at each stage of their life, search for: Ages and stages, Child Development Chart, or Child Development Checklist.

English assessment tests appropriate for children: Cambridge YLE (British English), CaMLA (American English), junior UN Eiken, or junior STEP Eiken testsFor more information, read the blog post at sendaiben.org entitled, *Young Children and STEP Eiken, Unprofessional and Irresponsible*.