

In the month of November, Our Nishi's ESS club is doing a project together with N Primary school. Our ESS club goes to the primary school nearby a few times to help with English activities and to interact with the primary school students. The ESS members seemed a little bit nervous to go the first time because they didn't know what to expect. But they became comfortable quickly and we all had a fun time interacting with the primary school students.

When we first arrived at the school, about 40 primary school students were waiting for us in the gym. They clapped happily as the high school students walked in, and our ESS members seemed a little bit nervous or shy. But once each ESS member was assigned to a group, they started to be more outgoing, talking with the primary school students in English and making simple conversation with them. The primary school students were so cute! Their English was very good, as they asked our names, made conversation by asking things like "How are you doing?," and they even had a variety of good answers for us instead of just saying "I'm fine, thank you, and you?" I joined the ESS members and rotated around in all of the groups, introducing myself to the students and learning their names, too. Even the students who were nervous about speaking English still spoke so confidently that I was very impressed. I have some high school students who don't speak as well as the students in primary school!

After being introduced to everyone, we had more chances to talk to the students about their hobbies, favorite colors, favorite sports and other simple things. I cannot say enough how surprised I was at their English! They knew how to talk about many different topics and they all spoke very comfortably and smoothly. It was fun to be with a large group of enthusiastic students. At the end of the time, the primary school students sang songs and preformed tongue twisters that they had learned for us. Their eagerness and energy was inspiring, and I hope that it affected the ESS members, too.

Especially teaching at a high school all this time, where students are often "too cool" to speak in English with me or to act excited about lessons, I really enjoyed having this opportunity to interact with the younger students. They seemed so happy to talk with us and they did a great job in English. I hope that their enthusiasm will rub off onto the ESS club members and also give the high school students some renewed energy for English. After leading the primary school students' groups, maybe they will be more confident about speaking English in other settings, too. At least I hope so!