

THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA REGISTER

A cultural exchange

By [LINDSEY BAGUIO](#)

2010-03-04 14:31:04



LAGUNA NIGUEL – What's the difference between teaching preschool in Japan and California?

A group of 51 Japanese teachers-in-training paid a visit to Marina View Preschool Wednesday to find out.

The visiting teachers – 20-year-old seniors from Ikuei Junior College in Takasaki – demonstrated origami for Marina View students, folding paper into geometric shapes and teaching them songs in Japanese about the alphabet, animals and numbers.

At lunch everyone used chopsticks, the preschoolers trying to pick up beans and vegetables while the visitors ate tempura and baked fish.

Nobuo Kuriyama, a professor on the trip, said he hopes the soon-to-be teachers learn to be flexible in the classroom.

"In Japan they follow a manual," Kuriyama said. "Here it's more flexible when the teacher deals with the kids; it's in a very individual way."

Marina View Preschool owner Preston Kratz said the goal for his students is "to be exposed to a completely different culture.

"I hope they go home and tell their parents, because it's nothing they have ever seen."

Contact the writer: lbaquio@ocregister.com or 949-454-7363

© Copyright 2010 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)