

# 2026

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Prepared by: Representative Director  
Audience: YOUMEWE and Partners



# What Is Nagareyama L.E.A.D. and Why It Matters for Children

Nagareyama L.E.A.D. is a 13-session, hands-on learning program designed to support children in building confidence, self-understanding, and foundational skills that help them thrive in school, relationships, and their future working lives.

At the heart of the program is a simple but powerful message:

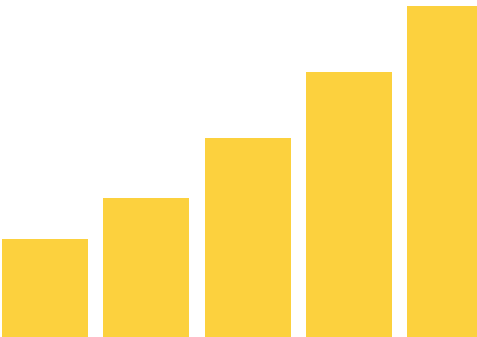
“Who you are right now is enough.”

Through guided self-discovery, children are encouraged to recognize their own strengths, interests, and values. Rather than focusing on correct answers or performance, the program supports children in developing self-worth and confidence in their own thinking and ideas.

## Learning That Success Is Built With Others

Nagareyama L.E.A.D. emphasizes that growth and success are not achieved alone. Children learn the importance of identifying trusted adults and peers, building supportive teams, and communicating clearly and respectfully with others.

These skills are practiced through interactive activities and games. As a result, children gradually develop the social and emotional abilities needed to maintain healthy friendships, participate positively in group settings, and collaborate effectively in future learning and work environments.



## Building Confidence Through Expression and Speaking

A key focus of the program is helping children feel confident expressing themselves. Children are given repeated opportunities to speak, share ideas, and be heard in a safe and encouraging environment.

At the end of the program, each child presents their ideas in a final pitch. This experience is not designed for evaluation or competition. Instead, it helps children develop confidence in saying:

“This is what I think.”

“My ideas are worth sharing.”

“I can speak in front of others.”

## Real-World Inspiration Through Community Engagement

The program is enriched through participation from community members, business professionals, and CEOs who join sessions to speak with children in a fun and age-appropriate way.

They share insights about different careers and industries, how learning connects to the real world, and why curiosity and creativity matter. Many visiting adults leave the sessions expressing gratitude, noting that the children’s curiosity and ideas are inspiring and energizing. This mutual exchange helps children see that their thoughts and perspectives have value in society.

## Alignment With National Education Priorities

Nagareyama L.E.A.D. aligns closely with the educational direction promoted by Japan’s Ministry of Education (MEXT), particularly in inquiry-based learning and entrepreneurship education. These areas are increasingly recognized as essential for children growing up in a rapidly changing world.

The importance of this approach is reflected in the establishment of dedicated educational departments within schools. In addition, the program has received endorsement from two Boards of Education, demonstrating strong support from the public education sector.



## Why This Program Is Important for Children Today

Nagareyama L.E.A.D. provides children with opportunities to learn that their voice matters, their ideas have value, and they can work positively with others. The program also reinforces that their future can be shaped through their own choices.

By combining self-discovery, communication skills, teamwork, and real-world exposure in a fun and engaging format, the program supports children in developing confidence, resilience, and a positive relationship with learning and their own potential.

