

Osaka Gas to Launch the Service of Prizero, an App for Managing Handouts as Part of Efforts to Solve Problems at Home, and Announces a Partnership with Toyonaka City Regarding Child Development and Child Care Support

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Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.

Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. (President: Masataka Fujiwara; hereinafter, “Osaka Gas”) has developed Prizero, a smartphone app for managing the many handouts that children receive from school, as a new business to help customers solve their problems with digital technology. The app will be distributed from the app store from April 19, 2021. Meanwhile, Osaka Gas concluded a partnership agreement today regarding child development and child care support using this service with Toyonaka City, Osaka Prefecture (Mayor: Shigeki Osanai).

Recently, it has become increasingly difficult for families to manage and store the many handouts distributed by school and afterschool teachers and manage schedules of events due partly to an increase in the number of double-income families with children. To solve such problems, Osaka Gas has developed a new service that enables families to comprehensively manage and share handouts, events and tasks using a smartphone. In the development project, 150 mothers and fathers in total who work for Osaka Gas were involved as testers, and feedback based on their actual experience was reflected. The service reduces the workload required to manage handouts.

Osaka Gas aims to study the possibility of promoting the use of the service through partnerships with local governments and schools. As the first step, Osaka Gas today concluded a partnership agreement regarding child development and child care support with Toyonaka City, Osaka Prefecture. Osaka Gas also hopes to contribute to identifying and solving social issues by organizing workshops for child-rearing households.

Osaka Gas has improved convenience for customers by offering services to enable remote operation using a smartphone to run a bath and turn floor heating on and off by introducing IoT to gas equipment. Osaka Gas will take on challenges to develop and offer new services using digital solutions beyond the field of energy, and contribute to solving problems in the daily lives of various customers.

The Daigas Group will help adapt daily lives and businesses to the “new normal” by meeting the changes in customers’ lifestyles and business styles and offering optimal services and solutions to respective customers.

■ Overview of the Prizero service

Every day, children bring home many important handouts. The app helps solve problems, such as handouts going missing when they are needed, or failure to meet a deadline for an assignment due to a careless mistake.



Feature 1. Capable of managing handouts using a smartphone

Images of handouts are captured using a smartphone, and the data can be stored in the app.

Feature 2. Capable of managing children's schedules and handouts as a set

The schedule and images of handouts can be managed as a set. Thus, the information can be checked easily without writing down the details. Schedules can be managed separately for each child.

Feature 3. Share the schedule with family members

The schedule and handout information can be shared with family members. It is possible to coordinate the schedule with family members and update the information.

Feature 4. Easy to check To-Do tasks, which are likely to be omitted, using the sticky notes function

The sticky notes function can be used to manage To-Do tasks, which are likely to be omitted, such as items needed for an event, a shopping list, and a list of things to bring.

Feature 5. Autosuggest/autocomplete frequently used words

When entering the names of events and handouts, candidate words are suggested. Words that are often used in children's schedules and school events are available. After the release, the functionality of the app will be improved depending on the usage by users.

■ Overview of the app

- Name: Prizero
- Provider: Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.
- Availability date: April 19, 2021 (for Android/iOS)
- Category: child care support app
- Price: free
- URLs for download (downloadable from April 19)

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.co.osakagas.prizero>

iOS: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/%E3%83%97%E3%83%AA%E3%82%BC%E3%83%AD/id1549139568>

- Prizero service site: https://home.osakagas.co.jp/search_buy/prizero/ (in Japanese)
- Prizero official account on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/prizero_official/ (in Japanese)

■ Partnership agreement regarding child development and child care support with Toyonaka City

Osaka Gas concluded a partnership agreement regarding child development and child care support with Toyonaka City. Toyonaka City and Osaka Gas will effectively use their resources to obtain, manage, and utilize the child care information. Feedback from citizens will be received to improve their respective services and promote partnership.

[Details of the partnership agreement]

- (1) Regarding the dissemination of information about child development and child care support
- (2) Regarding cooperation with the Toyonaka Child Care Supporters program
- (3) Regarding other matters related to the promotion of child development and child care support

■ Contact information

· Email

Prizero secretariat: prizero@kbinfo.co.jp

Hours of the secretariat: 10:00–17:00 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, year-end and New Year holidays, etc.)

· Telephone

Good Life Call, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. – Tel.: 0120-000-555

Hours: Weekdays – 9:00–19:00; Sundays and national holidays – 9:00–17:00