

Elementary school suicide wanted teacher to die

KITAKYUSHU -- An elementary school student who committed suicide last week wrote in his notebook that he wanted his homeroom teacher to die, the boy's family said.

The 11-year-old fifth grader hanged himself at his home in Kitakyushu on March 16, after his homeroom teacher told him off for playing with a paper toy.

The boy's aunt said on Sunday that his relatives found the boy's kanji character practice notebook the day after his body was found. He had written in the notebook that the female homeroom teacher ought to die.

The boy's relationship with his teacher began deteriorating last summer. Several times, he was crying when he came home. "I want to quit school," his relatives quoted him as saying. His family told him to try to abide by what the teacher told him to do.

On March 16, the homeroom teacher found the boy waving what looked like a stick he had made from paper. After grabbing his collar and telling him off, the boy ran out of the classroom. His mother found his body a few hours later when she came home.

"We didn't know he had been worrying so seriously that he would commit suicide," the aunt told reporters on Sunday. "I think the school's handling of the boy was problematic. Why didn't officials alert us when he left the school?"

The aunt added that if school officials had contacted the family as soon as the boy left school, his mother might have been able to come home earlier and could have prevented the tragedy. (Mainichi)

March 20, 2006