

おうちであ・そ・ぼ! vol.10



Himawari Preschool

June 1st, 2020

It is already June. Some days are hot like summer, but some days are raining like in our Japanese rainy season; rain make flowers and veggies grow well! Speaking of the rainy season, rainy season (Tsuyu) started already from the south area of Japan and now it's getting muggy. I hope the Himawari families who are staying in Japan now stay healthy.

Maple tree Helicopter!

Trees around us now have fresh green leaves and the maple tree seeds are falling down in my driveway as usual. The seeds are called "Maple tree helicopters" because they fall while spinning. At school we picked many seeds together and tossed up in the air saying "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" many many times. It was fun to see both excited kids and the spinning seeds. If you find somewhere, please try this fun activity with your kids. These seeds are also easy to grow. It will get big, but it is fun to watch it grow!

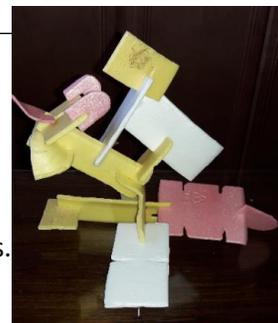


Styrofoam is FUN!

I heard many kids are playing with recycling stuff but I think kids sometimes struggle putting together with tape or glue. I introduce the new Styrofoam blocks which can be put together without tape or glue. This is easy to make and helps kids develop imaginations and creativity. It takes a little time to make, but I think many Dads will enjoy playing and making these blocks.

<How to make>

- ①. Cut a Styrofoam tray in any size and shape, then cut two sides like in this picture, and make a small notch.
- ②. Just connect the blocks together in any way. Kids can enjoy just connecting them together or decide to make something and decide themselves how to cut and connect.



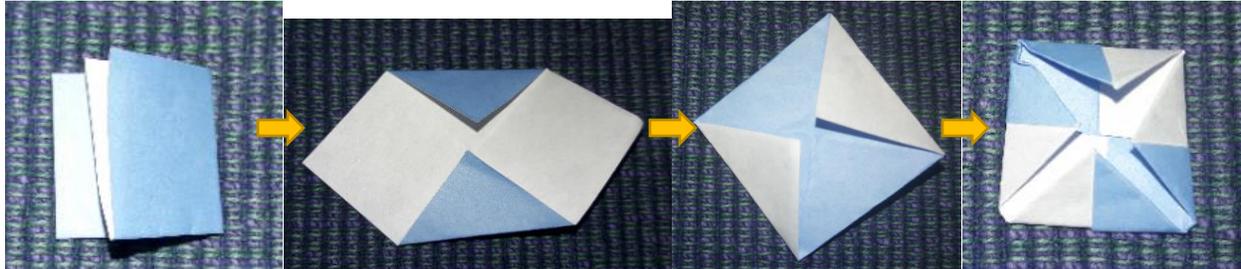
Origami calendar

The traditional June flower in Japan is the Hydrangea. Here in Michigan, some houses are growing them, but in Japan people go the temple or a Hydrangea garden. One of the symbolic meanings of Hydrangea is "Happy Family Circle". This originates from the little flowers which cuddle close together. Hydrangea is the perfect flower for our difficult Stay-Home times.

For a small challenge, kids might be excited to try making a Origami Hydrangea with the directions on the next page. I made 2 patterns of calendars again (See attached). Also you can make the paper patch Hydrangea: <https://youtu.be/zDor5okaMtE>



How to Make a Hydrangea



Fold twice into squares

Hold the 2 diagonal corners into the middle.

Turn it over, then fold the other 2 diagonal corners to the middle.

Fold each corner to the middle.



Then if you turn over. It looks like a flower! After kids mak some of them you can glue together. Once kids know how to make, they gain confidence and are eager to make more and more on their own! How many can they make?



You can also make the fingerprint Hydrangea. If your kid(s) likes to paint she/he might put paints all over her/his hands. However, you can also use a small container which fits only one or two fingers as well. After making a Hydrangea, you can let them have more fun with paints!

