

おうちであ・そ・ぼ！ vol.8



May 5th is Children's Day in Japan. You might already have planned something it, but here are some ideas. I hope these ideas help you to have some fun with your children!

Newspaper Helmet (Kabuto)! -Traditional activity

Every year, the Niji-Iro upper grade kids come to Himawari and make Kabuto for the Himawari kids or teach them how to make it. Even the older kids are happy to make Kabuto for themselves, too, and take them home. If it is too big for your children, you can fold in at the corners or make a belt under the chin. You can make it look cooler if you make an emblem (crest) out of a foil-covered yogurt top and color with pastels or permanent markers, or a paper cup flower I introduced last time. Kids can also color on the Kabuto directly.



Making a May Calendar

Kids can make their own calendar without Origami! Some examples...

☆Cut out paper like a **Koinobori** shape, and make scales of fish with veggies!

☆Cut a coffee filter in 3-4 parts and color with washable makers then spray with water (see pictures). This is the one of the kids' favorite activities at school.

☆You can make **strawberries** or **clovers** with ink stamps made from potatoes or the end of a toilet paper tube.

I heard some kids are now interested in Hiragana or numbers, so I made 2 patterns of calendars.(See attached)



Japanese Nursery songs

We enjoy many Japanese Nursery songs through the year like ♪ Hana ichi monme that kids enjoyed singing right before school closed; ♪ Abukutatta and ♪ Kotoshi no botan we usually sing when peonies at school bloom.

Chatsumi	Anta gatta Dokosa	Takenoko Meh Dashita
<p>May is the season for picking tea leaves in Japan. It is said that you live long if you drink tea that was picked on the day of Hachijyu- Hachiya (Usually May 1st). We put a video on our website, and you can try slowly first with your children. Enjoy!</p>	<p>Usually we play with a ball, but this can be difficult for preschoolers. You can just enjoy the song and rhythm with clapping your hands and not clapping your hand when you sing "SA" or holding hands with your family then jump when you sing "SA". If your child can bounce a ball, try to bounce at each "SA" or bounce and catch when you sing "SA".</p>	<p>This is the kids' favorite rock paper scissors song about bamboo shoots. Nursery songs build good relationships and a sense of security between people through the coming and going of the comfortable voices and expressions. Please enjoy!</p>

