Japan Society from Home:

Children's Day Activities

Activity 1: Kabuto Origami
Make your own wearable samurai kabuto origami helmet! With this simple origami technique, create kabuto helmets for the whole family!

Activity 2: Koinobori Wind Catchers
Koinobori, or carp steamers, are commonly flown above the roofs of kids' houses on Children’s Day. They symbolize the desire for kids to become brave and strong individuals. Create your own Koinobori with this easy craft!

Activity 3: Kashiwa Mochi Recipe
Kashiwa Mochi is a type of Japanese rice cake filled with red bean paste and wrapped in an Oak (Kashiwa) leaf. It’s a popular snack enjoyed on Children’s Day!

Activity 4: Iris Pencil Toppers
Iris flowers, which correspondingly bloom in early May, are symbolically placed in homes to ward off evil. Create a whole bouquet of irises with this simple craft.

Activity 5: Oni Balloon
Transport yourself to Oni Island by making an original wild-haired balloon monster. Create a scary, silly, happy, or serious monster—it’s your choice!
Kabuto Origami

Make your own samurai helmet with newspaper and this easy technique!

1. Be sure paper is cut into a square. Then, fold paper in half

2. Bring both top corners to bottom corner, creasing at the dotted line

3. On both sides, bring first layer of bottom corner to top corner, creasing at dotted line

4. Taking first layer of each top corner, fold outwards, creasing at the dotted line

5. Take first layer of bottom corner and fold up, creasing at dotted line

6. Fold up bottom portion and crease at dotted line

7. Fold bottom paper up inside kabuto helmet

8. Become Japanese warrior
Koinobori Wind Catchers

**Materials:** Cardboard Toilet Paper Rolls, Colored Paper (we use tissue paper), Crayons/Markers, Scissors, and Glue Stick

1. Using colored paper, cut out circles about 1/2 to 1 inches in diameter

2. Apply glue to top part of cardboard roll, also applying glue to top edge of cardboard roll

3. Start applying paper circles to glued portion of cardboard roll. Be sure that 1/2 of the circles go above the cardboard roll on top row
4. Fold over excess paper inside the cardboard roll

5. Glue next section of cardboard roll, and continue applying paper circles in rows

6. Continue until cardboard is covered in colored paper

7. Using white paper and marker, create an eye for your koinobori

8. Apply eye to your koinobori using glue stick
9. Cut up strips of colored paper about 3-4 inches long

10. Apply glue to one end of a strip of paper

11. Attach strips of paper to inside of cardboard roll

12. Continue attaching strips of paper until koinobori tail is filled out

13. Create friends for your new koinobori!
Children's Day Recipe: Kashiwa Mochi

Ingredients:
- 2 Cups Joshinko (Rice Flour)
- 2 Tbsp Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Potato Starch
- 1 Cup Water
- 1.5 Cups Red Bean Paste
- Kashiwa (Oak) Leaves

1. Take red bean paste and shape into small balls. Make about 10 balls and leave in refrigerator to chill.

2. In large mixing bowl, add Joshinko, sugar, and potato starch. Whisk together until thoroughly combined.

3. Add water, and whisk until ingredients are combined, creating a smooth white batter.
4. Cover mixing bowl with plastic wrap and microwave for about 4 minutes. (Make sure that mixing bowl is microwavable)

5. Remove mixing bowl from microwave and start pounding dough with wooden spoon. Be sure to wet the wooden spoon before pounding. This will keep the dough from sticking too much. Re-wet spoon often.

6. Once dough is cool enough, place on wet surface and begin kneading the dough by hand. Wet hands prior to and in between kneading to keep dough from sticking to hands.

7. Continue kneading until dough is smooth and shiny.

8. Cut the dough into 10 pieces roughly the same size.
9. Cover dough pieces under wet cloth or paper towel to keep from drying out.

10. Take one dough piece and flatten out into an oval shape using hands and rolling pin.

11. Remove red bean paste balls from refrigerator and place one in the center of rolled out dough.

12. Bring dough ends together, wrapping up the red bean paste. Pinch and fold ends together to close off. Wrap mochi in oak leaf, and you're ready to eat! (Tip: Do Not Eat the Oak Leaf!)
Iris Pencil Toppers

Iris flowers, which correspondingly bloom in early May, are symbolically placed in homes to ward off evil during Children’s Day. With this easy craft, you can create your own bouquet of irises! Simply print out or trace the below template and follow the directions on the next page!
Materials: Colored Paper, Pencils, Hole Puncher, Scissors, Glue Stick,

1. Trace iris & leaf templates onto colored paper. We used purple for the iris and green for the leaves—but you can get creative with the colors!

2. Cut out templates. You will need two leaf cut-outs for every one iris cut-out. Use a hole puncher to create a hole in the middle of the iris templates.

3. Bring up and glue together at the ends every other iris petal.
4. With remaining petals, roll downwards around a pencil.

5. Place iris flower onto the top of a pencil.

6. Fold leaves in half lengthwise, and wrap around the base of the pencil. Use glue or tape to secure leaves into place.

Create a whole bouquet of irises!
Materials: Balloons, Construction Paper (Multiple Colors), Yarn, Markers, Glue Stick, Scissors

1. Blow up balloon about half way and tie (blowing up balloon too much may cause it to pop!)

2. Cut out facial features for your oni including eyes, horns and teeth

3. Apply features to balloon, filling in any necessary details with a permanent marker

4. Finally, using strips of yarn, create crazy hair for your oni by tying yarn to top of balloon