

SIRA NEWS

2014.9 Autumn

Nishikouen-Playpark-no-kai



Mrs. Sasaki

Mrs. Teraushi



にしこうえん かい だんたい しょうかい こ たち あそ ば
 「西公園プレーパークの会」という団体を紹介しつゝ。子ども達がいきいきと遊べるように遊び場をつくつていま
 あおばく にしこうえん かつどう き てらうし ささき はな き
 す。青葉区にある西公園で活動しています。いつも来ている寺牛さんと佐々木さんにお話を聞きました。

The Nishikouen-Playpark-no-kai has created a setting in which children can play energetically in Aoba Ward's Nishi Park. We interviewed two members, Mrs. Teraushi and Mrs. Sasaki. Families from other countries are also more than welcome to participate!

▶ When was the Nishikouen-Playpark-no-kai established?

Mrs. Sasaki: It's been about 10 years since we decided to try to create a place where parents can bring their children whenever they feel like playing, a place that anyone can come to at anytime and try out things they've been wanting to do. Now we aim to hold activities 200 times a year.

People from the neighborhood wanted to create a place for children where they can be carefree and play to their hearts' content.



▶ What kinds of activities do you hold?

Mrs. Sasaki: We hold activities 3-5 times a week at Nishi Park. We don't decide how the children will play—they are free to play with the dirt or bring their own handmade toys. You don't need a reservation, and it's free.

We also hold an event once a month where we use wood to make things or cook food. There's also a 'Chibi Park Event' for children 0-6 years old. 'Chibi Park' is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nishikouen-Playpark days.

Mrs. Teraushi: Children are free to play however they like, and parents play with them too. Once, everyone brought onion skins from home because we wanted to try dyeing things with them. Sometimes we also hold seasonal events. In summer we made Tanabata decorations and *nagashi somen*, and in autumn we roasted potatoes and made *tsukimi dango*.



▶ What are your future plans?

Mrs. Sasaki: Please look for our flyers to find out about our monthly events. You can pick them up at the International Center or the Mediatheque. If you have any questions, please call us.

Also, we will hold 'Chibi Park' at the Mediatheque on December 1st (Mon.) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and December 2nd (Tues.) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We'll create a play space for parents and children to relax together. It will be held in the Open Square on the first floor of Sendai Mediatheque. No childcare service is provided. Please come with your children!



▶ Do you have a message for our readers?

Mrs. Teraushi: Come raise your children with us in the outdoors! We also hold seasonal Japanese events that foreigners will enjoy. Mothers also feel better just by going outside! At Nishikouen-Playpark, children wander off and become absorbed in their games. During that time, mothers can also take a breather and chat with each other. Come play with us!

▶ Inquiries

Phone: 090-7562-6154 (Mrs. Sasaki)

Website: <http://homepage1.nifty.com/KUROBE/index.html>

Blog: <http://ameblo.jp/nishikouen-playpark>

Place: Nishi Park, Aoba Ward, Sendai. We play in the woods on the south side of the grounds.

We are here

