

# Children are crying! Children are screaming out!

Many parents do not realize that they are neglectful parents.

In a zoo, zoo attendants had to take care of a baby tiger carefully because of the mother's neglect. Recently, we have a similar circumstance in the world of humans. Children are treasure. We are human beings. We have to recognize the importance of children and take care of them with deep affection.

We want you to know the reported number of child abuse is more than 40,000 per year.

Are you nurturing and protecting children so that they can grow up healthy?

The child has the right to be cared for by his or her parents and parents have a responsibility to nurture their child. However, more than 40,000 cases of child abuse have been reported per year to child consultation centers throughout the country.

There are several types of child abuse including beating up, attacking, asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities, failure to provide adequate food, leaving a child alone for a long time, name-calling, etc.

In case of an egregious abuse, a child is separated from abuser to protect his/her life and safety. And hospital, foster parent or child welfare facility provides temporary protection. If you are faced with various difficult problems at home, or you feel an uncontrollable urge to abuse your child, please call the following support organizations and consult.

### Saitama Protection of Children Against Child Abuse

(Saitama Kodomo wo Gyakutai Kara Mamoru Kai) : 048-835-2699

The emergency call for anxiety about child rearing, Saitama-city :

(Saitama-shi, Kosodate Fuan 110 ban) : 048-881-0922



Professional counseling is available.

There are warning signs of child abuse. You need to pay attention to little things when a child curries favor with adults, a child is scared all the time, a child avoids his/her parent, a child is expressionless, a child refuses to eat, although there are no sign of sickness. The child must be feeling lonely and he/she wants more attention from his/her parents. Please give a firm hug to him/her.

And if you do not go to classroom visitations because you cannot speak proper Japanese, you have children wear dirty clothes for long time, you fail to provide breakfast, you fail to give a child a bath the action would be a serious abuse.

Please cherish a child. Take pleasure in being father/mother and being with your child.

(written by Nanae ISHI)

[www.ficec.jp/foreign/](http://www.ficec.jp/foreign/)

●The back numbers of "Information Fujimino" are available at online.

**Do you know "Saitama Free Consultation Center for foreign residents"?**

It is said that more than 120,000 foreign residents live in Saitama prefecture. However, many of them have some trouble coping with the new lifestyle in Japan. Saitama Free Consultation Center for foreign residents opened last August. Saitama prefecture, Tokyo Immigration Bureau and Certified Social Insurance and Labour Consultant Associations got together to create a new organization. It offers appropriate advice to foreign residents who experience various difficulties.

This center is located in the same place of Help Desk, which is operated by Saitama International Association. The system shifted from telephone counseling to in-person counseling. Help Desk (telephone counseling) offers consultation services to foreign residents who experience various difficulties in their daily lives, in 8 languages, five days a week. The Free Consultation Center was made for foreign residents who want to consult with professional for getting more specific information about their problems. It is held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We can expect it to be a sympathetic listener.

If a person close to you has some troubles, why don't you consult the following services?

**Saitama Free Consultation Center for foreign residents ☎048-833-3600**

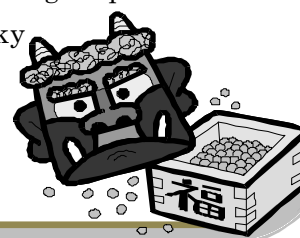
**Help Desk ☎048-835-2423**

**Saitama International Association ☎048-833-2992**

**series② 『Strange things about Japanese people for foreigners』 “setsu bun” “節分”**

The topic of this month is “Setsubun”. “Setsubun” means dividing seasons, in other words the day before the beginning of each season. Today “Setsubun” stands for February 3, and is one of the traditional ceremonies to ward off evil in Japan. Near Setsubun day, you can see lots of goods connected with “Setsubun” in many supermarkets. Roasted soybeans called “Fukumame” are sold there. In many homes, fathers play demons and children throw beans to drive away demons while chanting “Oni-wa-soto , fuku-wa-uchi” to wish for good health. It is customary for family members to eat the one more number of “Fukumame” than their age to get good health and not to catch cold. Many people eat Fukumame with Japanese tea after throwing beans with their family. However this custom is different depending on places.

In Kinki area they eat sushi roll called “Ehoumaki” while facing the lucky direction of the year without speaking. Why don't you wish your luck and good health this year by Japanese style ceremony?



Written by/ Ayumi KANDA Translated by/ Eri SAWADA



"Making soba", a Japanese traditional event, was held on last December 17 under the direction of Ms. Tozuka who is Japanese class's teacher. The soba is called "toshikoshi soba" and it symbolizes longevity. "It was so delicious!"

**Soba Making Experience**

**●Information about new structure for reducing childbirth expenses**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare carried out a new structure for reducing the burden of expenses for gynecological checkup and delivery last October.

For further information, please access the MHLW website. If you are interested in these matters, please call FICEC.

**FICEC telephone counseling for foreign nationals ☎ 049-269-6450**

**[www.ficec.jp/living/](http://www.ficec.jp/living/)**

●Living Guidance translated in 6 languages is available.