

What's Happening In Japanese Class? Volume 21 Issue 2

What letters did we learn?

か(kah) き(kee) く(koo) け(keh) こ(koh)

What words did we learn?

"ohn-nah-noh-koh" : a girl

"oh-toh-koh-noh-koh" : a boy

"kah-zoh-koo" : The Family

"oh-kah-sahn" : mother

"oh-toh-sahn" : father

"oh-bah-sahn" : grandmother

"oh-jee-sahn" : grandfather

"oh-neh-sahn" : older sister

"oh-nee-sahn" : older brother

"ee-moh-toh" : younger sister

"oh-toh-toh" : younger brother

"ah-kah-chan" : baby

"Teh-roo-teh-roo-boh-zoo": a sunshine boy

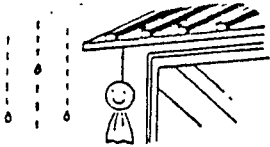
A very simple doll made of white cloth with a head but no arms or legs.

This is hung outside windows or from the eaves to wish for sunny days.

Children often hang one when they are hoping for fine weather the next day,

and they sing a song of "Teh-roo-teh-roo-boh-zoo". This custom was

brought to Japan from China many years ago.



***Cultural note**

In Japan, there are several kinds of children's celebrations or festivals held at certain ages as they grow praying for their happiness and healthy growth. "7-5-3 Festival", held for 7-year-old girls, 5-year-old boys, and 3-year-old girls and boys in the middle of November, is one of the important rites.

Children dressed in their finest clothes visit their guardian shrine of their home town or a big famous shrine accompanied by their parents and grandparents. They also celebrate the festival by taking photographs and licking "candy of a thousand years" for good luck and longevity.