



Children's Hands-on Learning Programs Held in Kakamigahara and Gifu City, Gifu Prefecture

TOKYO, Japan – July 19 2018 – ORIX Miyauchi Foundation hosted the Children's Hands-on Learning Program on July 7, 2018 to teach children in Gifu Prefecture about the night skies and other subjects on the day of the traditional Tanabata Festival.

Held by the Foundation for the first time in Gifu Prefecture, the program invited 66 children and staff from children's homes run by the prefecture to the Hall of Nature Discovery at Water Eco Park and the Gifu City Science Museum. They tried wood burning and built air rockets, and at the planetarium, learned about the night skies based on the theme, "What is the night sky like on Tanabata?"

Outline:

- (1) Hands-on class in wood burning and air rocket building in the Hall of Nature Discovery at Water Eco Park
- (2) Lunch followed by recreation on the playground equipment
- (3) The Tanabata exhibition in the planetarium at the Gifu City Science Museum

The children were given the chance to create their own wooden keyholders, using a woodburning pen to draw their designs, and also used empty plastic bottles to build air rockets. They seemed completely focused on making their original creations, and had fun showing them to one another when they were done. They were also very excited to shoot off their rockets with the help of employee volunteers from the ORIX Gifu office. Some of the children who learned about the Tanabata night skies at the planetarium commented that they had no idea there were so many stars out on Tanabata, and that the view of skies was beautiful. While the scheduled daytime viewing of the stars through the planetarium's telescope was cancelled due to rain, the children still had a chance to explore the indoor exhibits and experience the fun of science for themselves.

Going forward, ORIX Miyauchi Foundation will continue its support for social activities under ORIX Group and contribute to the realization of a truly affluent society.

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