Kodomo No Hi, or Children’s Day, is a Japanese holiday on May 5 to celebrate children - their health, growth, and happiness! For this holiday, families raise the koinobori, which are carp-shaped windsocks, to decorate the streets or their homes. The carp, who swims upstream fighting strong currents, is a symbol for success and strength. A Chinese legend tells the story of how a carp swam upstream to become a dragon! Other traditions for the day include eating kashiwamochi, a rice cake wrapped in oak leaves and filled with bean paste, and taking a bath with floating iris leaves, called syobuyu. Let’s celebrate children as well by creating our own koinobori!

Gather materials:
• Small Cardboard Roll
• Circle Stickers (various colors)
• Tissue Paper (various colors)
• Tape / Glue
• Googly Eyes
• Yarn / String
• Stick / Wooden Dowel
• Hole Puncher

Cover your cardboard roll in various colors of circle stickers. Make sure to put different colors next to each other and to overlap each sticker slightly so that you cover the entire roll.

NOTE: Start at the bottom to create the scale effect.
Stickers on the bottom of the roll can stick out over the edge of the roll. However, stickers at the top edge can be folded over into the inside of the roll.

Cut different colors of tissue paper into strips about ½”-1” wide and 6”-12” long.

Stick the tissue paper strips into the bottom edge of your roll. You can use the stickiness from the overlapping stickers to attach them.

Continue adding tissue paper strips until the entire rim is covered. You can add tape inside the roll to ensure the tissue paper is secure.
7. Add two eyes for your fish’s face. Secure with glue on opposite sides of the top of the roll.

8. Use a hole punch to poke two holes on the top rim of the roll on opposite sides.

9. Cut a piece of yarn or string about 6”-12” long and knot both ends to each side of the roll.

10. Grab a stick or wooden dowel and knot another piece of yarn or string, about 6”-12” long.

NOTE: The holes should not be on the same sides as your fish’s eyes.
Knot the string connected to the stick onto the center of the yarn attached to your roll.

Run with your stick to see your Koinobori look like it is swimming in the wind!