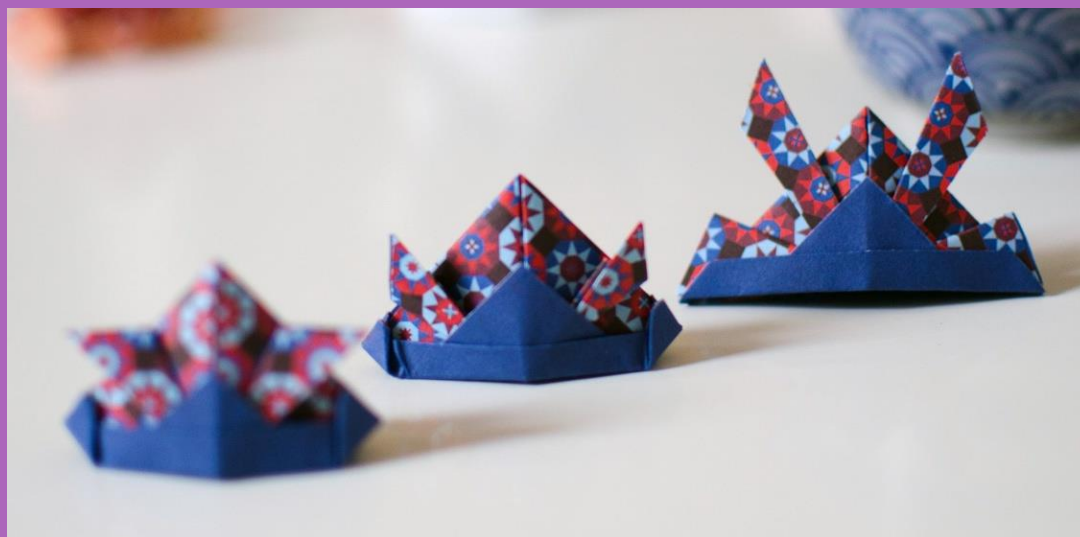


# Mollygami

## Origami for Children

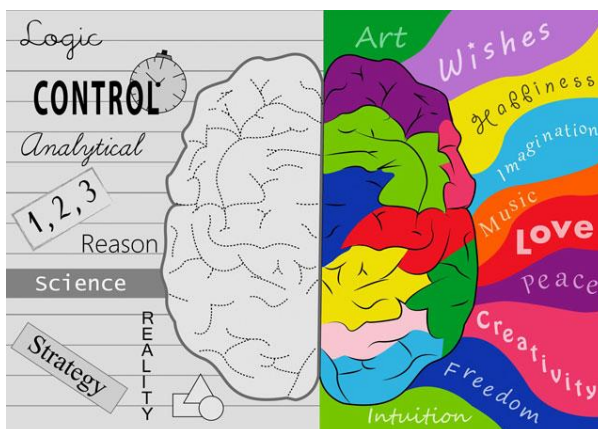


### Workshops for Primary Schools



# Origami for children

**Origami** is an ancient technique which develops both the **imagination** and **manual dexterity**. As we fold paper we use both hemispheres of the brain: It helps improve laterality and the perception symmetry, coordination and spatial orientation. It also allows the development of creativity, serves as an instrument of expression and allows individual or group work.



Paper folding is a wonderful way to engage children in learning basic math concepts like shape, size and numbers; foreign traditions, with seasonal models; or concepts like habitat, ecology and conservation for the folded animals.

The magic comes when they also **learn patience and concentration** as they make the fold neatly on their paper. They use their imagination as they see the beginnings of a bird emerging from the paper. They learn **sequencing and problem solving** as they realize that, to create an origami dog, specific steps must be followed in a logical order. As student practice models and learn more difficult models, their fine motor skills will also improve. Most importantly, students will gain self-esteem as they succeed in finishing a model and take pride in their work.

This activity, fun and educational, is recommended for **children over six years**, because they have the necessary motor skills to perform the models. Younger children may become frustrated as they are unable to perform the activity all by themselves.

## Goal

With the help of a fun and creative activity, children will get a final figure they can take home while reinforcing other knowledge: mathematics, knowledge of the environment, history, science, etc.

Every workshop is oriented to allow complete the manual activity with intellectual reinforcement. Therefore the workshops will be designed **along with the teachers**. They will choose the model to develop from an age and goals classified dossier, taking into account the classroom planned program.

**NOTE:** The models for each level have been chosen taking into account the difficulty in the folds and the average psychomotor skills, and have been tested with children of different age groups.

## Planned activities

Workshops share the same structure:

- Presentation of origami as an activity: brief history and basic folds.
- Presentation of the model to make and first explanation.
- First figure with plain paper.
- Final figure with specific origami paper.
- Composition on cardboard (in the case of shikishis and cards).

During the workshop explanations will be made on the specific model: how can you get a hexagon from a square, what kind of animals are whales or primary and complementary colours, for example.

The use of English depends on the level of the children: from vocabulary practice to teach the workshop entirely in English.

**ATTENTION:** *These are origami workshops, not English. Even though the workshop is taught in English, does not replace classes with a foreign language teacher. It is conceived as a booster to children who are already studying English.*

## Materials included

- Specific origami or decorative papers. Sometimes it may be recycled paper.
- Cardboard for carrying out the final model (for shikishis and cards).
- Vocabulary sheet.
- Origami Kit for each child: everything they will need for the workshop, paper to replicate the model at home and an origami sticker.

## Requirements

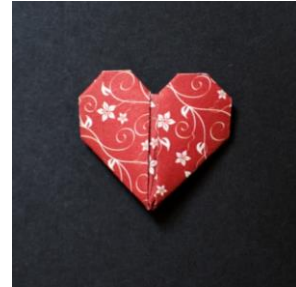
- The maximum number of children per workshop is **ten**. With more children not explanations are possible without someone being left behind.
- The workshops last between 45 minutes and an hour, depending on the agreement with the school.
- In case that scissors, glue and / or colored pencils were needed, the centre will be responsible for providing them.
- A4 o Letter sized papers for the first figure. It has to be regular white paper.

# Types of Origami

The final result also depends on the **technique** associated with each model:

## Traditional Origami

It's made from a 15x15cm. square of paper, with no glue and no scissors. Some models are quite simple while others are really complex. Even some models are free-standing figures. With medium-difficulty models the final result will be the model itself.



## Action origami

The finished figures make some kind of movement: jumping frogs, bats flapping their wings ... The end result is the figure itself, which children can play with. They may not start from a square sheet, but usually they do.



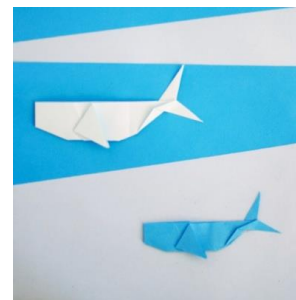
## Kusudamas

These perform simple geometric shapes assembled, leading to the final figure. They are often used as decoration, and sometimes glue is used in order to secure the model once it is assembled.



## Shikishi

Small rectangular displays where a composition is made with the figures. For very simple traditional origami models, in order to put them into context. The background as well is made by the children.



# Prices

Workshops in Spanish: 3€ per child. Workshops in English: 4€ per child.