'We live in a very peaceful area, with an open paddock to one side of our house. Our home reflects our desire to be great hosts and provide a fun environment for guests and visiting relatives,' says Jacqui. What do you love about your home? Email your photos to **homes@ikeafamilylive.com**

LIVING IN IZUMISANO-SHI

MEET... Jacqui, a creative entrepreneur who works from the 140m² home she shares wtih her husband Takeshi and sons Noah (12) and Tyler (7)

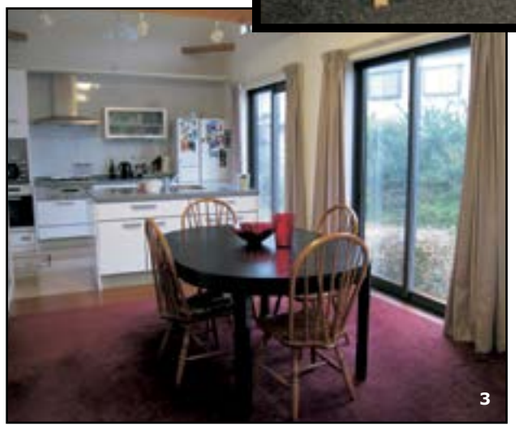
Our interiors style is clean and modern but with a homely and warm atmosphere. Although the walls are white and the furniture is neutral we've added touches of colour to create a happy, vibrant home. I think our home is inviting and most of our guests feel at ease immediately. It's also a comfortable space to raise our two children in. I've made an effort to be very organised at home as this makes it so much easier to keep it neat and clean, and makes working from home possible. Thanks to IKEA I never fear welcoming unexpected guests as everything has a home in a cupboard or on a shelf somewhere – our books alone take up three BILLY units (1)!

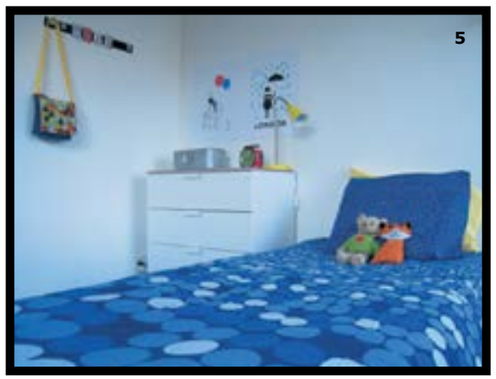
Our beautiful STOCKHOLM sofa fits the whole family for movie night and does double duty as a very comfortable spare bed from time to time (2). We often have friends and family visiting from New Zealand so having extra sleeping space is important. It grounds the living room and looks fantastic with colourful cushions or a throw over the arm. Most importantly the covers can easily be removed for cleaning, which is critical with kids in the house.

We all enjoy spending time in the open-plan kitchen and family room as it is bright and light-filled all year round (3). My husband and I both like baking and cooking so the kitchen is one of our favourite spots. I entertain a lot during the day in our dining area as I host morning teas with local residents who want to brush up their English-language skills. This is also where I enjoy playing games or building with LEGO blocks with my kids. The French doors that open onto our large garden from this area of the house let us enjoy the outdoors as much as possible.

We enjoy adding to our home and consider it a work in progress. Having a growing family means our needs change constantly so it's great having the IKEA catalogue to thumb through for clever ideas. We all use IKEA bedding and love the all-season duvet innners and pillows. The kids have chosen bedlinen in colours and patterns that suit their personalities (4, 5). Storage space is at a premium in our home, like in most family homes, so we employ many of the great items available at IKEA behind the scenes in our home. The kids' toys, camping gear and much more are housed in IKEA storage units and bins in their rooms. I enjoy sewing and crafting and recently bought a large BESTÅ cabinet for my sewing equipment and fabric (6).

Follow Jacqui at bloomingnihon.blogspot.com





NEWS

神戸の歴史を味わおう

神戸の歴史を支えてきた海と港に感謝し、未来の発展を願うKobe Love Port・みなとまつり。2002年の初回以来年々賑わいを増し、今では10万人以上が集まる一大イベントです。会期は7月20～21日、場所はメリケンパーク。ショーや国際屋台など、家族で楽しめる催しも満載です！ minatomatsuri.jp

川崎大師風鈴市

開創から886年を迎える名刹、川崎大師平間寺。川崎大師風鈴市は、その平間寺境内で開催される夏の風物詩です。開催は7月17～21日。全国47の都道府県から郷土の特色あふれる風鈴900種類3万個が勢揃いし、境内に涼やかな音色を響かせます。kawasakidaishi.com

仙台七夕まつり

起源を辿れば1600年代にさかのぼる仙台七夕まつり。重なりあい、風にたなびく和紙飾りはまさに絶景で、脈々と受け継がれてきた歴史と伝統を一目見ようと200万人もの観光客が訪れます。開催は8月6日から8日までの3日間です。sendaitanabata.com

虫よけスプレーを手づくりしよう

水、ハッカ油、少量のアルコールで虫よけスプレーが作れること、ご存じですか？ 化学薬品が入っていないため、安心して使うことができます。ハッカ油は、好みの精油に置きかえることで香りも楽しめます。作り方はさまざまなサイトで紹介されています。