



Independence Day July 4, 2010

Fun Facts

- The Liberty Bell was rung when the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. It was rung again on each Fourth of July until 1846, when a small crack had grown to the point that the bell could no longer be used. Other bells are still rung at Independence Day celebrations.
- This holiday celebrates the day the United States of America officially became a country.
- Fireworks have been used to celebrate important events throughout our history and were a part of the very first Independence Day festivities in 1777.

Foot Sponge Painting

(from *The Big Messy Art Book*)

Materials:

- Butcher paper
- Masking tape
- Tempura paint
- Sturdy, shallow pans
- Large sponges
- Velcro straps (from sporting, bike, and hardware stores)
- Plastic dish tub of warm soapy water
- Old towels

Process:

1. Place long sheets of butcher paper on the floor (or outside on a nice day). Tape down for safety.
2. Put tempura paint in shallow pans, one color for each pan. Place next to the paper.
3. Invite children to take off shoes and socks. Strap a sponge to each foot with Velcro straps. Assist child in stepping into the pans of paint – one color for each foot. (Hint: This is a slippery activity; one or two adults should support the artist.)
4. Help child walk across the paper, to create sponge designs.
5. After removing straps, children can rinse bare feet in a tub of warm, soapy water. Use old towels to dry.

Variations:

- Start with only one foot strapped with a sponge before trying both feet.
- Cut sponges into shapes.
- Tape three or four sheets of paper together creating a "skating rink" and skate on some pastel blue paint (with adult help).
- Spray the paper with water and step into powdered tempera paint.
- Instead of sponges, try dust mops or scrub brushes attached to feet.
- Make sock paintings, feet paintings, boot paintings, and so on.

To learn more about *The Big Messy Art Book*, [click here](#).

Fireworks Mobile

(from *Art All Year Long*)

Materials Needed:

- Small circular oatmeal box
- Black glitter felt
- 14" (36 cm) piece of string
- Glitter chenille stems
- Glitter glue in assorted colors (or loose glitter and glue)
- Twist ties and string
- Glue
- Scissors

1. Cover the oatmeal box with the black glitter felt.
2. Draw fireworks bursts onto the felt with glitter glue, or with glue sprinkled with loose glitter, and let them dry.
3. Make fireworks by bundling several pieces of glittery chenille stems together and securing them with twist ties in the center.
4. Bend the chenille stems to form firework shapes
5. Tie the chenille stem fireworks to strings and attach them around the bottom of the oatmeal box.
6. Punch two holes in the top of the oatmeal and tie the 14" (36 cm) long string to both holes to serve as a hanger.

To learn more about *Art All Year Long*, [click here](#).

classroom tips

Social Studies in the Early Childhood Classroom

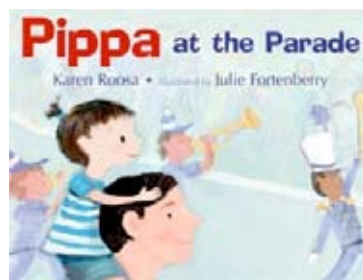
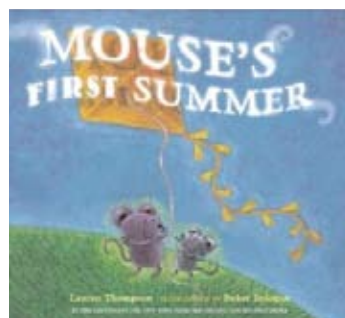
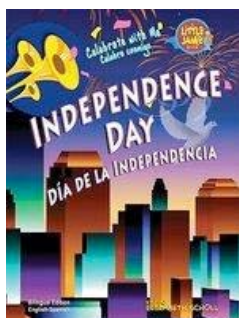
It has been suggested that many current preschoolers' future professions have yet to be created. The majority of these preschoolers may need to connect with people in other countries on a daily basis. One goal of the early education experience is to help children understand the vastness of the world around them in simple ways. Children can begin to understand that there is something bigger than their home or classroom. Below are a few ideas to help open the world up to young children.

Infants/Toddlers

- They begin to understand their immediate community within the classroom: cleanup time, sharing toys, playing alongside others, etc. Play is the basis for building socialization skills.
- Encourage respect for other cultures by singing songs and reading stories from different viewpoints and cultures. Children begin to learn more about their own families and cultures while also being exposed to others from around the world.
- Display photos that reflect families in your local community and model an appreciation for all cultures and backgrounds.

Preschoolers

- Make children aware of their local neighborhoods (at home and school). Who are some of your neighbors? Do you have friends who live in other neighborhoods? How do you get to a friend's house? Who are our neighbors at school?
- Create visual maps of the classroom, school, and/or community.
- Collaborate with families. Have them share their traditions, customs, sports, foods, etc. Discuss differences from when they were growing up to now – how has transportation changed? technology? music? Are there foods we have now that weren't available when they were growing up?
- After exploring local neighborhoods and communities, expand the investigation to your state.
- Incorporating different foods, clothing, shelter, money, and transportation into a unit of study helps develop civic responsibility.



Sun Prints

Materials and Preparations:

- Construction paper (not fadeless paper)
- Objects with unique shapes (small toys, cars, paper clips, clothespins, blocks, stencils, children's scissors, etc.)
- Chart paper and marker

Learning Experiences:

- Place objects with unique shapes on a table. Have children choose several objects along with a sheet of construction paper.
- Find a sunny place where children can arrange the objects on the paper. They can leave their objects in the sun for a few hours, allowing the sun to fade the area that is not covered (outside works best). What do they think will happen? Record their predictions on the chart paper.
- Later in the day, return to the paper to find out what happened. What do children notice? What shapes or designs do they see on their paper? Discuss the results compared to their predictions.

Books to Share

Caterpillar Spring, Butterfly Summer by Susan Hood

Independence Day/Día de la independencia by Elizabeth Scholl

Mouse's First Summer by Lauren Thompson

Pippa at the Parade by Karen Roosa

It's Vacation Time: Playtime with Little Nye by Lerryn Korda