

Mother's Day – May 9, 2010

Make Mother's Day Booklets

Materials and Preparations:

- File folders
- Assorted art materials (markers, crayons, glitter glue, doilies, etc.)
- Drawing paper
- Construction paper

Learning Experiences:

- Invite children to make booklets about their mothers. Encourage children to dictate and illustrate a response (one per page) that finishes the following sentences.
 - My mother likes to . . .
 - I like it when my mom and I . . .
 - My mother helps me when . . .
 - I like it when my mom takes me . . .
 - My favorite time of day with my mom is . . .
 - My mother is the best because . . .
- Collect each child's pages and store in a file folder. When all pages are complete, staple the booklet pages between two sheets of construction paper.
- Invite children to decorate their booklet covers.



Filling the Bucket

Be a bucket filler and celebrate Children's kind acts.

Materials and Preparations:

- Bucket, paper hearts, ball

Learning Experiences:

- As children say or do kind things for each other during the day, have them share with you. You can write it on a heart that they can add to the bucket. To keep things going, observe and listen carefully for more actions and words to add to the bucket.
- Reach in the bucket and celebrate some of the kind acts that children have done for one another.
- Sing the following song while passing a ball around the group. When the song reaches the last line of the second verse, whoever has the ball can share a bucket filler idea to complete the song. Don't worry if children repeat what others say; it will only help them remember the kind acts they are saying!

HOLE IN OUR BUCKET

(tune: "There's a Hole in My Bucket")

There's a hole in our bucket
Dear friends, dear friends,
There's a hole in our bucket,
Dear friends, a hole.

Let's fill our bucket,
Our bucket, our bucket.
Let's fill our bucket

By _____ (Say something that is a kind action or word, like giving a hug, helping a friend, etc.)

Postcard Art

Create postcards from faraway places.

Materials and Preparations:

- Assorted postcards from travel destinations
- Travel brochures
- Blank postcards (thick paper cut to the size of a large postcard, 1 per child)
- Assorted art materials (crayons, markers, colored pencils)

Learning Experiences:

- Share travel brochures with children. As a class, vote on a destination to "visit." Find the place on a globe or map and trace with your finger from where you live to your destination. How will you get there? Plane? Boat? Car?
- Based on the brochure, does our destination look warm or cold? What clothing should we pack? What activities will we be able to do? What else might we need to bring?
- Show postcards from different places. What do children see? What do the postcards say? Talk about how some people send postcards to friends and family when traveling.
- Invite children to create a postcard from their destination. What would they like to do if they traveled? Offer blank postcards and art materials to decorate them. Be sure to leave one side blank.
- On the blank side, record what children want to say. Send the postcards home.

classroom tips



National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month was created to honor the achievements of people from Asia and the Pacific islands and to recognize their contributions to the United States. Below are some notable history-makers.

- Maya Lin, at the age of 21, won a contest to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Her design was chosen out of more than 1,400 entries.
- Ah Sit Bing developed the Bing Cherry in Oregon.
- I. M. Pei is a famous Asian-American architect whose designs include the Louvre Museum in Paris, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Japanese-American Iwao Takamoto worked as animator for Disney and Hanna-Barbera and created the original character designs of Scooby-Doo and the Jetsons' dog Astro.

The Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor environments are places to capture and inspire children's wonder for the natural world. Outdoor play is vital for promoting children's physical, cognitive, and emotional development. Adding natural elements to your existing outdoor space doesn't have to be a difficult task. Below are just a few ways you can create wonder in young children about nature.

- Grow flowers or vegetables in wooden planters. This gives children the opportunity to dig in the dirt, track the growth progress of plants, and observe what insects and creatures are attracted to the plants.
- Consider keeping some inexpensive rubber boots and raincoats on hand. Children will love splashing in puddles and playing in the rain. Snowy or rainy weather doesn't have to limit you to only the indoors.
- Take a Natural Wonder walk with children in your neighborhood. Encourage everyone to see how many natural wonders (spiderwebs, dandelions, etc.) they can find. Nature often finds a way to survive even in cities.
- Create a classroom nature museum. Provide children with pails or bags in which they can collect items from outside (rocks, pinecones, leaves, etc.) and explore them further in your science center.
- Conduct a study of clouds. Invite children to stretch out on a blanket and gaze up at the clouds in the sky. What kinds of different clouds do they notice? What shapes do they see? Why are some clouds fluffy and others thin and wispy? This provides a great opportunity for the class to discover the answers together.

Make note of children's interests when outdoors and follow wherever they may lead. Every exploration is an avenue to build and extend children's knowledge and to have fun investigating and discovering.

Children's Book Week May 10–16, 2010



Since 1919, National Children's Book Week has been an annual tradition dedicated to spreading the joy of reading. Introduce children and parents to the pleasure of reading and the worlds that exist between the covers of great books.

Here are some ideas for bringing the celebration into your classroom.

- Create a book-making center. Provide sparkles, glue, construction paper, crayons, and other crafts children can use to create their own storybooks or bookmarks.
- Invite a guest reader into your classroom to share his or her favorite children's book.
- Encourage children to bring in their favorite books to share with the rest of the class.

Share this free bookmark from the Children's Book Council. Visit the official Children Book's Week Web site. www.bookweekonline.com.



Books to Share

Biscuit Loves Mother's Day by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
T. Rex and the Mother's Day Hug by Lois G. Grambling
Celebrate! It's Cinco De Mayo by Janice Levy
Let Me Help! ¡Quiero ayudar! by Alma Flor Ada
The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle
Bunny's Garden by Golden Books