



*AMC Montessori Fall 2011
Hands-On Creative Lesson
Planning Newsletter*

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

Published by American Montessori Consulting

Heidi Anne Spietz, Editor

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<http://www.amonco.org>

The AMC resource participants have generously shared hands-on activities that you will want to use in coming months. You'll be impressed with the ingenuity and creativity expressed in the recipes and crafts they have chosen to share with you. Use their ideas to foster interest in science, social studies, art, mathematics, and other academic hands-on learning activities. Integrate the recipes and crafts into your multicultural lesson planning as well.

Hopefully, you will let the participants know how much you have enjoyed their recipe(s) and craft(s). Visit the websites listed throughout the newsletter. You'll find additional helpful lesson information at these sites.

American Montessori Consulting is not responsible for any of the crafts or recipes posted here. All of the crafts and recipes are copyrighted and are the property of the participating AMC resource organizations listed in this newsletter. For questions concerning their individual copyrighted material, you need to visit the website listed in association with the craft(s) and recipe(s) that interest you and obtain the telephone number and/or e-mail address of the contact person(s).

If you would like friends on special listservs to know of this newsletter, please request that they download the newsletter directly from

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html

Use special precautions when involving children in any craft or recipe where there is a potential for harm. Some children have special food allergies and/or other medical conditions like diabetes. Small children need supervision. Scissors, hot glue, hot stoves and ovens, and other elements in making some of these recipes and crafts need to be considered. Please consider carefully the age and maturity level of the child before allowing him or her to participate.

Be sure to visit each resource participant's site to see the marvelous selection of educational offerings you can use in your school and home classrooms. You'll also find creative, unique educational gift items that are sure to be enjoyed by the special young people in your life.

The following creative ideas are from the AMC Montessori Resource Center <http://www.amonco.org/directory.html> participants. Visit their websites for additional innovative ways to reach your students throughout the school year.



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Download Free Songs in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Chinese

Plant a Tree Curriculum Resources & Lesson Ideas

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Website: <http://www.amonco.org>

Unit Study by Heidi Anne Spietz

A Unit Study Featuring Italy

Locate the information you need to present a comprehensive Italian unit study. for primary and secondary students. With this free resource information, you can easily customize the lessons for Montessori school and homeschool environments. A sampling of the topics are as follows:

Presenting Lessons in Italian

**Parts of the House*

**The Alphabet*

**Numbers*

**Parts of the Body*

Native Lingo

Italian Art

Italian Art History

Music of Italy

Italian Music Terms Used in English

Music Unit Study

Italian Opera

Italy Timeline

History of Italy

Italian Recipes

Extension Exercises

To access this unit study, please visit

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_italy.html

Stillsonworks

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Website: <http://www.stillsonworks.com>

Middle School Word Puzzles Submitted by Alan Stillson

Name Games (like May and may or Jim and gym):

1. _____ put _____ moss in the soil.
2. _____ cleaned the mud from the welcome _____.

Homophones (like here and hear):

3. _____ people can figure out the _____ of a lot of numbers in their heads.
4. When I spilled the cake _____, every _____ in the vase turned white.

Curtailments (lose the last letter - like bunt and bun):

5. A man with a _____ of Beethoven was waiting at the _____ stop.
6. The _____ just kept jumping to and _____.

Wraparound Cities (find starting letter and direction):

7. LLELOUISVI
8. NIMSILOPAEN

Columbus Day (fill in the missing letters):

9. S _ N _ A M _ _ I A
10. L O _ K I _ _ F _ _ I _ D _ A

Answers:

1. Pete and peat
2. Matt and mat
3. Some and sum
4. flour and flower
5. bust and bus
6. frog and fro
7. Louisville
8. Minneapolis
9. Santa Maria
10. Looking for India

If you enjoyed these ten puzzles, imagine how much fun it would be to have a thousand of them! You can order Middle School Word Puzzles and Alan Stillson's other puzzle books directly from Stillsonworks and get an educator's discount. Just click onto <http://stillsonworks.com>

About Middle School Word Puzzles

Middle School Word Puzzles is a great tool for you to use:

Written for the education and enjoyment of students who read at the 5th-8th grade level

Wide variety of interesting and relevant topics

8 1/2" by 11" pages - reproducible

Reasonable price - \$10 with student or educator's discount

Middle School Word Puzzles is easy to order.

For additional information, the answer to the sample puzzle, and to place an order, please click onto: http://stillsonworks.com/m_swp/mswp.html



FunFelt

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Website: <http://www.funfelt.com>

Craft Submitted by Karen

As a Story Teller Consultant for the last 4 years, I have enjoyed producing a newsletter of lessons, crafts, and fun activity ideas for my customers and website visitors. The following is an idea which appeared in a past issue of my newsletter, FunWithFelt - #16 Home Made Holiday Gift Ideas.

Gift Idea: Painted Kitchen Trivet

Materials: 12" tile Acrylic paint, 1 or more colors Paintbrush Sheet cork
Rubber cement

I did this with my oldest daughter and it was a big hit! Take a 12" square plain or solid colored tile from the hardware store, and some acrylic paint (I used a black tile with gold and silver paint!). Have the child paint

designs onto the tile and paint his or her name and the year. Bake the painted tile in the oven 15-20 minutes (read paint bottle for directions). Glue sheet cork (available at hardware stores) to the bottom of the tile with regular rubber cement or cork cement.

This makes a beautiful trivet that can be given as a gift and used at those holiday meals. The baking makes the paint permanent and resistant to heat. Everyone we gave these too are still using them 6 years later! By the way I did this when my daughter was only 18 months old, sitting in her high chair painting (with me carefully monitoring!). Her art was very abstract, and the grandparents loved it!

This project would be equally well received by an older child who could be more detailed in their design, perhaps painting a picture, or patterned design. Have fun with it!

You can read the many other ideas shared in this issue of FunWithFelt as well as over 30 other archived newsletters at:

<http://www.yahogroups.com/archive/funwithfelt>



About Funfelt

In past issues, my team of consultants and I have shared ideas for many thematic topics which correlate to the beautiful felt storyboards that we offer through The Story Teller. Such topics include Farm Life, Rainforest, Ocean Animals, Storytelling, Friendship, Nutrition, and many more. You can find out more about the felt products we offer by visiting my site at:

<http://www.funfelt.com>

At <http://www.funfelt.com>, you will find that we offer uniquely durable felt boards, puppets, activity books and dolls printed in the most artistically detailed designs out there on the market. If you'd like a sample of our felt, to see the rich colors, details, and maybe even throw it in the wash to test the durability yourself, please feel free to visit my site to find a local consultant, or email me directly at susie@funfelt.com

With the holidays coming up, we offer one of the most unique educational gifts available - felt play is multisensory (we include tapes of the stories and songs!), appropriate for kids ages infant through 12 and beyond, open ended, and only available through consultants like myself. Let me know if you have any questions and again. please visit my newsletter archive for more craft and lesson ideas!

Visit <http://www.funfelt.com/bug-book.html> to learn more about the Bugs and Insect Activity Book. “The realistic bugs in this felt activity book will leave your skin crawling! Your child will go buggy over the many creepy, crawly creatures hiding underground, behind plants, or on the front porch.



Natures Workshop Plus, Inc

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Website: <http://www.workshopplus.com>

Activity Submitted by Don and Diana

Delighting in Discovering Little Things

Children and Microscopes

Microscopic explorations can be fascinating for young children. They never cease to "ooh and aaah" over every new specimen introduced. For elementary aged children, we recommend starting with a stereo microscope because this type of scope allows for viewing objects which interest young children. They can explore their outside world and bring all sorts of treasures to the microscope for further observation.

Rocks viewed at low power, sparkle and shimmer. Flowers expose their hidden beauty when closely viewed under the microscope. When studying leaves, view the veins and stems. In the spring when your garden plants are young, bring in a plant or two for root viewing. We haven't met a child yet who isn't fascinated with insect picture books.

Catch some insects live in a bug viewing box, and place them live under the scope and instantly reveal their three part anatomy. Oh, and do be sure to keep a sketch book beside the microscope so that your young observer can recreate the specimen on paper. This drawing activity not only provides greater appreciation for the masterful art work in nature, but also develops the necessary skill of observation which is crucial for all budding scientists and nature enthusiasts.

Teach your children while they are young to use the focus knobs and to correctly place specimens for viewing. When they are comfortable using the equipment, you'll be able to leave the scope out for hours and even days at a time, and they will observe to their hearts content.

When our youngest daughter was 4 she took great delight in observing anything that would fit under our stereo microscope. So, we boxed the pretty glass wear and gave the microscope a center place on the dinning room buffet. By herself she viewed everything from house dust to vegetable scrapes. Whenever we asked her if she needed help she usually said, "No, I can do it myself" and would begin turning the focus knobs. Today at age 9 she is a keen observer and she loves to sketch what she sees.

Microscopes can be so much fun. They reveal nature's secrets and allow children to be amazed and delighted with more realities of their ever blossoming world. Whether the season is warm and sunny or bleak and cold, there is always something to observe.

Don't have a microscope? How about a quality, inexpensive hand held magnifying glass. They are easy to take along on a nature hike, durable when children forget to be gentle, substantially more affordable, though limited in magnification ability, and are a great way to begin teaching children to manage their own equipment.

Please visit our web site for science and nature study supplies.

<http://www.workshopplus.com>

About Nature's Workshop Plus, Inc.

Nature's Workshop Plus, Inc. is a small family-run business specializing in supplies for science and nature studies for children of all ages.

We carry nature study books, science project books, hands-on activities, art projects, wood projects, binoculars, microscopes, telescopes, field guides, coloring books, piano music, rhythm instruments, scripture prints, lab equipment, Nature Friend Magazine, and much more!

We distribute free catalogs to groups and individuals upon request.

Contact information: Phone at 888-393-5663;

FAX 317-892-5791

Visit <http://www.workshopplus.com> today!



homeschool.literatureplace.com

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The following article is contributed by

Rita Arpaia

Marketing Literature Resources Online LLC

Award-winning Books Today! *Tomorrow's Classics!*

Searching for the Right Book? At literatureplace.com, we know how difficult and time-consuming it can be to select the best books for your children. The selection process becomes even more daunting with the publication each year of over 3,000 new titles. With aisles full of children's books, where do you begin? When in doubt, start with award-winning books. Many of today's winners will become tomorrow's classic!

Start With the Winners **Guides to Award-winning Books** **From Toddlers to Young Adults**

Over 3,000 Award-winning Books from over 100 Awards Program!

Our Collections of Award-winning Books from Toddler to Young Adults readers are unique to literatureplace.com. From the winners chosen by experts representing the institution awards programs to the winners chosen by choices of thousands of children who participate in 50 children's state awards programs...you will have access to some of the best authors and titles to help you make the best choices. More important you will have access to the combined perspective of both children and adults.

More Than Just a Booklist Beyond the PDF to the html format!

Start with the Winners is based on the most comprehensive and dynamic compilation of award-winning books currently available online *at one site*, representing titles from toddlers to high school. Each collection includes two components in html format and online access time:

1. **Annotated Booklist** includes a brief overview of the book and the total number of awards won by that title.

2. **Bookview** is included for each title in your booklist with more information and links related to the book.

3. **Access Time** ranging from one month to one year depending on the number of titles in your list. Any updates such as new titles or new awards during your access time are automatically included in your collection where relevant.

This unique approach to award-winning books will exceed your expectations...and more important make shopping for books more fun and engaging.

Collections Based on Grade Levels

Start with the Winners Collections are arranged by Grade Level to make your online shopping more typical of offline shopping except it is less time-consuming and a more informative experience.

Toddler

PreK-Grade 2

Grades 3-5

Grades 5-9

Grades 9-12

Collections Start with the Top Winners

Each Collection in *Start with the Winners* starts with those titles that won the most awards in the collection category. In order to be included in a collection a title has to have won at least two awards...many titles have won more than 10 awards. Collections include nonfiction as well as fiction and all genres are represented. *Bookfinder*, our database, is the most comprehensive collection of book awards programs including all the award types in each award. Through a variety of searches, this cumulative database is used to generate the most unique collections of award-winning books based on genre, subject, award types, grade levels, award years, and many more.

Visit <http://www.literatureplace.com> to experience *Start with the Winners*.

Availability Online September 2011

Music for Little Folks

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Website: <http://www.little-folks-music.com/>

My recipe for **Hot Fudge Pudding Cake**

Stir together 1 1/2 cups.-sugar

2 cups flour

6 T cocoa powder

4t. baking powder &

1/2 t. salt

Add 1 cup. milk - 2/3c. melted butter -3t. vanilla
and blend until smooth...

Spread batter in 13 x 9 pan...

Stir together 1/2 cup.sugar -8 T cocoa

1 cup. brown sugar & sprinkle over
batter...

Pour 2 1/2 cups .HOT water over top-do not stir....

Bake at 350 for about 30 minutes or until center is almost set...

Serve alone or with whipped or ice cream...ENJOY....



About Music for Little Folks

How to Sing & Dance with Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers & Kindergartners
Too!

A Music and Movement Curriculum for Early Childhood

*12 Complete Step-by-Step Audio Cassette Lessons & Video - From Hello to Goodbye.

*Features Traditional Folk Music

*No Musical Talent Necessary

*In-Service Trainings

Many of the materials can be adapted to K-2nd grade. Over 240 musical activities, 360 minutes of audio musical fun and 72 minutes of visual reinforcement. Make music a joyous, daily experience for the little ones in your life!

Look for the following items on my website in the months to come!!

Two new items are due out sometime in 2011. One is a travel guide and CD for babes. The other is a CD series for families of children birth-2nd grade. Visit

<http://www.little-folks-music.com/>



Professor Toto

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Website: <http://www.professortoto.com>

Visit <http://www.professortoto.com> to learn how you can download free songs in French, Spanish, Italian, German and Chinese..

About Professor Toto

As students watch, laugh, participate and sing along with Professor Toto and his lively friends, they're absorbing French, Spanish, Italian and German vocabulary and grammar and building language skills.

The Professor Toto Multi-Media Language Education Kit won six awards and is a leading language education tools because it was developed by a practicing children's language education expert with over 35 years experience and tested in his own classrooms.

François Thibaut designed Professor Toto's DVDs, CDs and Workbooks to replicate his Language Workshop for Children's Thibaut Technique. He believes that "children remember what makes them happy." Professor Toto animations are interactive, colorful, funny and educational. The vocabulary-rich songs are professionally produced and easy to remember. CNN called François Thibaut "one of a very few experts in teaching languages to small children". Join the educators using Professor Toto. Visit www.professortoto.com or call the LWFC at 877-444-9595 (**School's, libraries and home-schooling parents will receive a 20% school discount**).



The Creative Process

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Website: <http://www.creativeprocess.net>

Lesson Planning Ideas and Resources Submitted by Rae

Plant a Tree Curriculum Resources & Lesson Ideas

Tree planting is an excellent way to commemorate an event - like starting the school year. While planting is generally associated with Spring time, Autumn is

also, and maybe even a better time, to plant a tree.

Tree planting is also an excellent “teachable moment” - introduce the seasons, energy conservation and protecting the environment, the value of food trees, what trees would be best for the location that is available, learning to ask permission from the owner or manager of the property to plant, caring for trees, just to mention a few topics.

ArborDay.org is an excellent source of information, as are state extension services where you can also inquire about local resources for your tree planting adventure. Also check out i-Tree, a web site from the USDA Forest Service that provides urban forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools.

To paraphrase Robert Louis Stevenson • “Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the trees that you plant.” ~

Visit <http://www.netposterworks.com/resources/curideas/plant-a-tree.html>



About the Creative Process

Creative lesson planning just became a little easier. The Creative Process offers educators a beautiful selection of educational portrait posters, notecards and biographical bookmarks of a selected group of individuals who have made a positive, lasting impression in this world. The company's products are absolutely breathtaking.

The company's posters, notecards and biographical bookmarks all make unique, educational gifts. What child wouldn't want many of these beautifully designed, informative bookmarks as a gift!

Visit <http://www.creativeprocess.net> today !!!

Farm Country General Store

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Website: <http://www.homeschoolfcgs.com>

Recipe Submitted by Karen

Hot Baked Chicken Salad

3 c. cooked chicken (chopped)

2 c. celery (diced)

1/2 c. almonds (silvered)

1 c. salad dressing

1/2 t. salt

2 T. onion (minced)

2 T. lemon juice

1/2 c. cheese (grated)

1 c. potato chips (crushed)

Combine chicken, celery, almonds, salad dressing, salt, juice and onion. Pour into greased casserole. Mix cheese and chips; sprinkle over top. Bake 400 degrees for 20 minutes.



About Farm Country General Store

Here is what the owner has to say about Farm Country General Store: "We have searched the highways and byways to bring your family the latest and best in educational products to make your homeschool a success. The products are carefully selected for their overall excellent content. We represent several companies and are happy to special order products for you that you don't see listed in this catalog."

World Views of the Western World, Learning Language Arts through Literature, Easy Grammar, Spelling Power, Beautiful Feet Titles, Lamb's Book of Art, G.A. Titles, Making Math Meaningful, and Five in a Row Unit Study are just some examples of what you will find between the pages of the company's catalog. This well illustrated catalog contains items in **all academic categories**. Pictures accompanying detailed descriptions of many available items will help you with your homeschooling lesson planning.

Visit the Farm Country General Store website to see the entire selection and to get ordering information. Contact info: E-mail fcgs@homeschoolfcgs.com or call (309)367-2844



Read the other parts of this creative hands-on lesson planning newsletter by visiting

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html

End of Part 4

