



*AMC Montessori Fall 2009
Hands-On Creative Lesson
Planning Newsletter*

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

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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

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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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Middle School Word Puzzles Submitted by Alan Stillson

1. NAME GAMES

Fill in the blanks with a name and a word with the same pronunciation. They might be spelled the same way (like *May* and *may*) or differently (like *Jim* and *gym*).

_____ runs two _____ every day.

2. HOMOPHONES

Fill in the blanks with two words with the same pronunciation, but different spellings and different meanings (like *here* and *hear*).

After I sliced the pizza into _____ pieces, I _____ three of them.

3. WRAPAROUND FOODS AND DRINKS

Find the starting letter and the direction (example: RGEPA is grape ^ starting with G and going left).

ANGEOR

4. INCOMPLETE WORDS FOR COLUMBUS DAY

Fill in the missing letters.

S _ _ N _ _ A M _ _ _ I A

5. INCOMPLETE WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS

Fill in the missing letters.

R _ I _ D _ E _

WORD PUZZLE COLUMN ANSWERS

1. Miles and miles 2. eight and ate 3. orange 4. Santa Maria 5. reindeer

Middle School Word Puzzles

"Middle school students and younger students who are reading at 5th-8th grade level deserve their own word puzzles and this book provides one thousand of them. Homophones will enhance THEIR skills when they do the puzzles over THERE. Beheadments will help them LEARN while they EARN praise for solving them. Incomplete countries will take them on imaginary tours of places like _ R _ N C _ and _ U _ T _ A _ IA. These puzzles are fun, fast, and focused.

Here's a sample puzzle:

Name Games (fill in the blanks with a name and a word with the same pronunciation, like May and may or Jim and gym):

_____ cleaned the mud from the welcome _____.



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 karen@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!



Pictured above is the Animal Habitats Activity Book from The Story Teller: Learn about animals of the desert, rain forest, ocean, polar regions, and mountain forests. This is a felt Big Book with 10x12 inch pages. Set includes lesson plans, teaching ideas, five pages, and 59 felt figures. It is available on the Science page: <http://www.funfelt.com/science.html> for \$21.99.

Karen Clark - Fun Felt for Kids Independent Story Teller Director
<http://www.funfelt.com>

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!

literatureplace.com

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

The following article is contributed by

Rita Arpaia

Product Manager and

Marketing Literature Resources Online LLC

Searching for the Right Book?

When in Doubt, Start with the Winners!

At <http://www.literatureplace.com>, we know how difficult it is 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? Why not should start with the winners! Leave it to the experts from the institution awards programs to guide you through the selection process. And look to thousands of children who share their point of view in 48 children's choice state awards programs. It's the most reliable way to make the best selection...the best titles from the best authors. Before you go to the bookstore, or the library, save time and visit **literatureplace.com**. Create a booklist of award-winning books that match you child's needs.

We believe so strongly in this that we created the most comprehensive and dynamic compilation of award winning books currently available online *at one site*, representing titles from preschool to high school. With its database of 121 children books awards programs now cumulative through the year 2000, visitors to our site have access to over 1,800 award-winning titles that can be accessed by subject, author's name, grade level, and more. Our easy-to-use **Bookfinder** search tools gives you results from both the institutional awards programs and all the state-based children's choice awards programs. This cumulative combination of adult-selected children's books and children-selected books provides an in-

depth as well as a broad and unique view of the best children's books, both the award winners and the honor books. Here are some ideas from our users on how they have used our database of award-winning books. You'll think of many others...please share them with us at our online Users' Tips.

Create reading lists: This is a tremendous time saver! In minutes you can select a list of award-winning books. You can individualize lists for your students based on topics that match their interests, or topics in your curriculum.

Search for the nonfiction titles: Many young readers prefer to read nonfiction books, especially topics in science or social studies. Using our search tools to find award-winning nonfiction and use copy and paste functions to incorporate these titles into your own reading list.

Select the favorites from the children's choice awards: You can use the children's choice search tool to find the books that won the most children's choice awards in your state. Young readers are excited about reading books their peers have chosen as their favorites. Some students may enjoy selecting their favorites from this collection.

Find award-winning picture books: While most people rely heavily on the Caldecott award books list, you might wish to go beyond it and use our search tools to access a wide variety of award-winning picture books selected by children.

Special topics reading lists: If you are looking for titles that meet the needs of special needs groups or individuals, use our search tool to select titles that deal with such topics as physical disabilities, death, home problems, peer relationships, drug abuse, and so on, and then refine your search for specific age levels.

Multicultural titles: If you have needs for multicultural titles, then start with the award-winning books. All of the current awards programs that recognize titles that best portray an ethnic group are now in our database.

Create your own book-awards program: If possible, try to have all books on your selected children's award-winners list available for your group to read. When all have finished reading their books, have them form a Winners' Circle. Engage them in a discussion on why these books have been voted the favorites. List the features they think make these books winners. Post the award-winning features list on a bulletin board so that students can refer to it. They might try to pick their own favorites using the features list to see how many of their choices make the Winners' Circle.

Plan a PTA meeting to demonstrate the parent connection: Invite your parents to a demonstration of the award-winners database so they can see the many options they have as a site visitor. Consider showing the parents all the features.

Use our logo: You may use our logo to identify your place as a "literature place". Have your students make a large enough version of our logo and place it on the outside of the classroom door for others to see.

Our mission at <http://www.literatureplace.com> is to develop a comprehensive and dynamic collection of literature-based resources and to use the technology of the Internet as a delivery vehicle. We currently offer **Bookfolios**, our literature activity guides, for **150 titles** most of which are classics and award-winning books for 8-12 year olds.

The **Bookfolio** for each title provides numerous instructional choices designed to engage the reader in activities that promote reading, writing, speaking, listening and more. These literature-based activities stimulate the reader's interaction with books; take the reader more deeply into the book and beyond; encourage the reader to revisit a book many times and for different reasons; provide the reader with a broad collection of narrative forms and texts; extend and enrich the reading experience; and more. The variety of learning modalities makes it easy to meet young readers' needs and interests. A sample Bookfolio can be viewed online, along with a catalog of all our offerings and purchase options. Visit <http://www.literatureplace.com> for details.



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 2009. 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**).

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

