



*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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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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Hobby City - Fun for Free Year Round

Article by Heidi Anne Spietz

Hobby City, conveniently located near Adventure City and Knotts Berry is one of the must see places for those visiting Southern California year round. Everything from unique museums to specialized shops is conveniently housed in one location. You and your family will particularly enjoy visiting the Burton's Gems and Opals shops See <http://www.daytrippen.com/adventure-city2.html> for additional information.

I first visited Hobby City back in 1989 when I was writing the first edition of **Modern Montessori at Home: A Creative Teaching Guide for Parents of Children Six through Nine Years of Age** - <http://www.amonco.org> This book contains a unit study lesson that involves integrating the study of postage stamps with geography, U.S. history and creative writing. Another unit study lesson mentioned in the book focuses on integrating science and creative writing with the study of rocks and minerals.

Step into the Burton's Gems and Opals, and you immediately feel relaxed and welcomed. The staff is very helpful and knowledgeable, and you feel encouraged to just relax and take your time to look around at the beautifully displayed collections of rocks, minerals and other offerings.

The owner's daughter, Carrie, was very gracious in steering me to some selected items that are sure to interest younger patrons visiting Burton's Gems & Opals Lapidary International this year. Carrie started my tour by showing me the beautiful Fire Agates, which, she recounts, her dad, owner David Burton, would love to reclassify as *gem limonites*.

Carrie, whose keen interest and enthusiasm in gemology was more than apparent throughout the entire interview, willingly provided me with a synopsis of how the Fire Agates are formed plus provided a bit of information as to when the popularity of this beautiful stone in the United States first occurred.

The Fire Agate, which is often found in Arizona and Mexico, contains a limonite base that gives the stone a shimmering brilliance. The coloring mineral then forms over the limonite. The microcrystalline quartz, which is basically an agate, occurs in many colors, and acts as a magnifier and stabilizer.

Owner David Burton, who has successfully operated the store since the late 1950s, is one of about six cutters in the nation who can cut the *gem limonite*. Apparently, according to Carrie, Fire Agates were very popular during the 1950's and 1960's. (If you and your child would like to learn more about the history of this stone, do a Google.com search using keyword phrase *Fire Agate 1950s and 1960s*.)

Carrie then shifted my attention to the amber specimen display case and explained that this stone is actually petrified tree sap in which insects are often entrapped. The cost of the amber is dependent upon what is captured inside. For example, an amber containing a spider is worth more than one with a fly. A fellow patron chimed in, at one point during the conversation, reminding us of how Jurassic Park had made amber famous! (You might remember a storyline from this fictional movie proposed that an amber containing an ancient mosquito might indeed be the key to recreating dinosaurs.)

My eyes then fixed on two other nearby display cases. The first offers young dinosaur enthusiasts the opportunity to purchase an actual fossilized dinosaur bone that was found in Moab, Utah. The second display case features actual shark teeth. These items are rare and unusual enough to delight young children. However, items more in line with the parents' budget include the polished stones, i.e. quartz, agate, jasper and feldspar ranging from a nickel to a dollar apiece.

While visiting Burton's Gems & Opals Lapidary International, be sure to check out the displays of the opalized wood, also known as Nevada's Virgin Valley Opal, gemstone carvings from Peru, Bali and Hong Kong, and other rare collector stones. If you have an interest in specialized jewelry making, take a look at the lovely jewelry display cases as well. Burton's Gems & Opals is located at 1228 S. Beach, Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92304 Phone (714)827-5680

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Here are two recipes... one for "just kids" and the other for families:

"Bread-on-the-Inside" Sandwich snacks

Sliced lunch meat such as bologna

Softened or spreadable cream cheese

Bread sticks

Spread cream cheese on a slice of lunch meat.

Place a bread stick in the middle and roll up....Eat.

Variations:

Use flavored cream cheese

Sprinkle other ingredients on the cheese (such as green onions, fruit, relish, or (gag) chocolate chips.

Omelet in a Bag

Quart freezer zip bags

Eggs

Any other omelet ingredients you like, such as:

Ham, bacon, sausage, shrimp, salmon, or any meat

Green onions

Tomatoes

Mushrooms

Spinach

...or anything you like

Scramble a bunch of eggs in a large bowl... 3 per adult or 2 per child.

Write your name in pencil on the outside of a zip bag. Put your choice of ingredients in the zip bag and add 1 cup of egg. Do not put cheese in, as it will turn watery. Zip the bag securely and boil in water in a spaghetti pot for 15-20 minutes. Remove with tongs. Empty bag onto plate and add cheese

and garnishes, such as:

Sour cream

Salsa

Avocado

...or whatever you like

This is a great menu item for families that like to camp. You can cook a lot of bags at once, depending on the size of the pot. Everyone's omelet is ready at the same time! It also makes an elegant and wonderful brunch idea... Just have everyone build their own omelet and throw it in the pot. Serve with scones or cinnamon rolls. We had this experience for the first time at a neighborhood backyard brunch and they cooked the bags in a propane-fired crab pot. It was a tremendous hit!



About Joyful Noise Publications

“**Joyful Noise Publications** specializes in dynamic and interactive curriculum materials for the multi-age or developmental elementary classroom. All our materials are teacher-created and have been developed within the classroom setting. We feature a line of sequenced, self-paced materials for spelling, phonics, handwriting, keyboarding, math computation and problem-solving. In addition we have an assortment of learning center materials and games in most subject areas to reinforce learning while keeping kids motivated. It is our desire to provide materials for students of widely varying abilities, learning styles and learning environments.”

Visit <http://www.joyful-noise.com> for more details.

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Cathie Perolman ~ Montessori Teacher

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Website: <http://www.joyful-noise.com/jnp/handson.htm>

A Craft Idea Forwarded from Cathie

Snow Covered Pine Trees

Materials needed:

shallow box such as the kind that holds 6 packs of soda
large pine cone glued to a 5 1/2" square piece of cardboard
green tempera paint mixed with Elmer's or white school glue
small paintbrush
plastic snow available in a craft store
a large bowl (do not fill the bowl too full)

Age group 3-6 year olds

Teacher prepares the project by securing the pine cones onto the cardboard.
She also mixes the paint and glue.

1. Place the pine cone in the shallow box.
2. Paint the pine cone as thoroughly as desired.
3. Lift handful of plastic snow and let it snow peacefully over the pine cone. The snow will stick to the paint creating the illusion of a pinecone covered with snow.
4. Paint the cardboard, and let it snow onto the ground.
5. Remove the snow covered tree from the box and let it dry.

These make nice non denominational gifts for the holiday season. We still display the one our daughter made 15 years ago.

Two children can paint at a time and both pinecones can fit in the same box.
This project is amazingly easy and even three year olds can complete it independently and successfully.



About Cathie Perolman's Hands-On Phonics

Joyful-Noise.com is the home of Hands-on Phonics, the exciting self-paced phonics program designed for multi-aged environments. Children work sequentially and systematically through six different types of activities providing practice in decoding and spelling words of using specific phonetic elements. After doing the manipulative work, the child records his work in his individual recording booklets and indicated his progress on the front of the booklet. When finished, the booklet cover is colored to look like a rainbow! Children enjoy the predictability and variety of this unique program.

Teachers enjoy that the children work independently and gain valuable practice. The Short Vowels and magic "e" program are available currently. The Vowel Buddies program is in production at the time and should be available this Fall.

Visit <http://www.joyful-noise.com/jnp/handson.htm> for more information.



North American Montessori Center

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Activity Submitted by Dale Gausman

Activity #1

Getting to Know Each Other

Purpose

To practice social skills, build community and appreciate the differences in people.

Material

- * Timer or stopwatch.
- * Health Sciences journals and pencils.

Presentation

- * Most Montessori teachers present this activity in Years 1, 2, and 3.
- * Announce that today students will have an opportunity to get to know their classmates, to share interesting facts about their lives with one another, and to introduce one another to the class.
- * Divide the students into pairs (if there is an odd number of students, the teacher can work with a student). Ideally, form pairs of students who do not know each other very well.
- * Ask the pairs to find comfortable places in the room and to sit facing one another.
- * Explain that each person in the pair will be given two minutes to tell the other

person his/her name and to share some information about themselves. This information might be about hobbies, family, sports, or anything that the student chooses to share.

* Explain that after two minutes, there will be a signal for that person to stop (e.g., ringing a small bell, clapping the hands softly). Then, the other person in the pair will share his/her name and some interesting facts about himself/herself.

* Ask that all students listen carefully to the person who is speaking and not interrupt. Explain that students need to listen carefully because afterward, each student will introduce his/her partner to the class, and share one interesting fact about this partner.

*Set the timer for two minutes, and give the signal for the students to begin. After two minutes, give the agreed-upon signal for the new speakers to take their turns.

* Set the timer again for two minutes.

* When the second two minutes have elapsed, ask the entire group to sit together in a circle.

* Explain that one student in the circle will stand and begin by first introducing herself/himself to the class. Then, this same student will introduce her/his partner to the class, and share one interesting fact learned about this student during the two-minute speaking period.

* Ask a student to begin by saying, "My name is _____. This is my partner, _____. One interesting thing about _____ is _____."

* Continue until all students have introduced themselves and their partners and shared one interesting fact about their partners.

* Ask the students to use their journals to draw a picture of their partner in this activity.

Extension

*Share information with a new partner; this time discuss specific information, such as what is the person's favorite food or favorite activity to do on the weekend.

Activity Submitted by Dale Gausman

Activity #2

Making Applesauce

Purpose

To practice safe cooking skills while making applesauce.

Material

Small sharp knife; cutting board; 1 Tbsp (15 mL) measuring spoon; measuring cup; wooden spoon; saucepan; medium-size bowl for peel and seeds; four small bowls (to be kept in their designated shelf until the applesauce is ready to serve); stove.

Ingredients

Basket containing four apples; cinnamon; 3 Tbsp (45 mL) liquid honey in a small bowl; 1/2 cup (125 mL) water in a measuring cup.

Presentation

*Most Montessori teachers present this activity in Year 3, to a group of four students.

* In advance, prepare material and ingredients and place them on a clean worktable. Be sure there are four clean small bowls in the designated shelf.

PART 1: GETTING READY

*Announce that today students will have an opportunity to make a delicious snack from apples.

*Remind the students to always carefully wash their hands with soap and warm water before preparing food. If needed, go with students to the sink and demonstrate good hand washing, then be sure all students wash their hands in this manner.

*Explain the activity: The students will wash, peel, chop, and cook apples to make applesauce.

*Ask the students to each take one apple and wash it at the sink, then return the apple to the work area.

PART 2: MAKING THE APPLESAUCE

*At the worktable, invite a student to place the cutting board and knife on the table. Ask the students to take turns and peel one apple each (demonstrate only if necessary), then place the apple peels in the medium-size bowl for disposal later in the compost or garbage.

*If necessary, demonstrate how to safely cut an apple in half on a cutting board, then how to cut the halves again, so that the apple is now in quarters (many Year 3 students already know how to do this). Ask the students to cut and quarter their apples. If necessary, demonstrate how to cut the seeds out of one apple quarter, then invite the students to seed their apple quarters, then place the seeds in the medium-size bowl for disposal later in the compost or garbage.

* If necessary, demonstrate how to chop one apple quarter into several smaller pieces on the cutting board, then with the blade of the knife, slide the small apple pieces off the board into the saucepan. Invite the students to chop their apple quarters, then slide the apple pieces off the board and into the saucepan.

* Invite a student to use the measuring cup to pour 1/2 cup (125 mL) of water into the saucepan.

*Invite another student to measure 3 Tbsp (45 mL) of honey and add it to the saucepan.

*Ask a student to carry the saucepan to the stove, then place it on a burner at medium-low heat.

*Explain that constantly stirring the apple mixture with the wooden spoon prevents scorching. Ask the students to take turns stirring the apple mixture (under your supervision), and continue stirring until the apples become mushy.

*Ask a student to turn the burner off and put on oven mitts, then remove the saucepan from the burner and place it on a potholder. Let the applesauce cool for about 30 minutes.

PART 3: TIDYING AND TASTING

*While the applesauce is cooling, ask the students to clean the dishes and work area.

*When the applesauce has cooled, invite the students to each get a small bowl from the designated shelf. Take turns using the wooden spoon to ladle a portion of applesauce into a small bowl.

*Invite the students to sprinkle a small amount of cinnamon on top of their applesauce. Sit together at snack tables to eat their snack.

*Remind the students to wash the dishes, clean the work area, and place all material back in the proper place after this activity.

Activity Submitted by Rita

Activity #3

The Friendship Tree

Purpose:

The friendship tree is intended as a tool to acquaint new classmates with one another at the beginning of the school year in a fun and creative manner.

Exercise:

The teacher should provide a tree skeleton for pasting individual leaves. The skeleton should be large enough to accommodate leaves for each child in the classroom.

The children should be provided with templates for creating their own leaf shapes. Once they have chosen their leaf shape, they should be allowed to choose a color for their leaf – i.e. green, gold, brown, orange, etc.

Once the children have traced and cut-out their leaf, they should move to a station with a variety of colors of finger paint. The paint should be poured into shallow dishes, such as pie plates, one for each color.

Each child can now choose the color of paint they want. They should dip one hand into the paint and press it down, palm-side, onto their leaf. After they have cleaned up, they should move to the next station where they print their name on their leaf.

Once their painted leaf is dry, each student should paste their leaf on the tree skeleton. The completed tree becomes the friendship tree.



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The Creative Process

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Recipes Submitted by Rae

Make at Home Craft Recipes

The process of engaging your children in making their own homemade playdough, modeling clay, and fingerpaints with inexpensive, household ingredients, is a teachable moment for learning patience, planning ahead, and cleaning up. FYI - did you know the early scientist constructed their own instruments - there wasn't a store to run to for a microscope! Visit <http://www.netposterworks.com/resources/curideas/craft-recipes.html> and let the fun begin! These recipes are just one of many innovative activities offered by The Creative Process.



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.

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

Read the other parts of this creative hands-on lesson planning newsletter by visiting
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End of Part 3

