



*AMC Montessori
Spring 2012 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_spring_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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HOME MADE ICE CREAM IN A BAG FOR TWO

Ice Cube Fun from Funfelt.com

How to Make a Flannel Board

Garden Artisans.com

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Website: <http://www.gardenartisans.us>

Activity Submitted by Jan

Hippitty Hoppitty Bunny Topiary!

Whimsical topiary has been an admired art form for thousands of years and now you too can create your very own. It's simple and easy.

Materials: 3-D bunny topiary frame, gardening container, potting soil, small boxwood plant or rosemary plant, pruning sheers.

How To:

1. Choose your container. You can choose a small container where the bunny will be the main attraction or choose a larger container and plant small trailing and cascading plants the bunny can "hop" on.
2. Choose your plant. The bunny frame is 12" tall, so choose a plant that is 8" to 10" tall already. Boxwood's have always been a favorite for topiary, but there are many other options: Rosemary, lemon verbena, lavender, and the list goes on and on. Herbs with small leaves make great topiaries and as you trim you can supply your mom with great fixings for the kitchen!
3. Layer the bottom of your container with small rocks to help with drainage. Then fill with potting soil and plant your chosen plant.
4. Install the bunny frame over the plant and clip and trim the shoots as they grow through the mesh until the wire is completely hidden by your bunny. See, it was easy!

About Garden Artisans

We have a deep love of gardening and want to share it with people of all ages. We believe gardening feeds the soul and nourishes our love of nature and urge to create. By visiting <http://www.gardenartisans.us/> and clicking on **Arts & Crafts** you will discover arts & crafts and gardening projects you children. You will find everything from child sized apron, books, gardening tools to project kits, by visiting <http://www.gardenartisans.us/>

Visit <http://www.gardenartisans.us/archivednewsletters.aspx> to see the entire line of free gardening newsletters.



Creative Process

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

Activities Submitted by Rae

One of the most effective ways to share experiences, i.e. teach, is through storytelling and games. Stories and games enmeshed in the learning environments add "stickiness" (see The Tipping Point) to lessons and encourage learning across disciplines.

The Peaceable Kingdom

Check out ideas for using a painting, The Peaceable Kingdom by Edward Hicks, in teaching peace, conflict resolution, language skills and history. Discussion and activities using artistic expression can be customized for your situation and age group. For details, visit http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/peaceable_kingdom.html

Monthly Observances and Notable Dates

A new feature on Creative Process is a Monthly Observances and Notable Dates list- educators can see what's happening in a particular month- holidays, awareness month, week or day for a special cause, with links to resource materials. Point your browser to

<http://www.netposterworks.com/holidays/index.html>

Crayon Resist

Art projects using crayon resist techniques are always a rewarding experience for children and teachers. At the most basic level, and using easily available materials - construction paper, a wax candle, a large brush and black tempera paint, even the youngest children's scribble designs are satisfying to watch emerge from the background.

Crayon resist relies on the wax in the crayon or wax candle to resist the liquid paint, the same principle used by Indonesia batik artists who use melted wax and dyes to create intricate textile designs.

See

http://www.netposterworks.com/resources/curideas/crayon_resist.html for more information.

Flower Themes, Flowers in Art

Help usher in spring with Rae's *Flower Themes, Flowers in Art* lesson planning ideas.

Visit http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/flower_themes.html and click on the **flowers by month** | **flower trivia** | **state flowers hyperlinks** listed above the Floral Diversity Chart to access the information.

Picture-A-Day and Time Lapse Photography Idea

As a child I was fascinated by a LIFE magazine story of a father and daughter who had a picture of them together taken on her birthday for years. The experience of examining the changes in the two people provoked thoughts on togetherness, changes to our bodies as a child matures and a parent ages, the changes in our relationships with one another- I even wanted to know about who

had taken each picture and were other pictures taken at the same time?

Bring those ideas into the classroom with a **Picture-A-Day and Time Lapse Photography Idea** - try a zoetrope, flip books, optical illusions. See http://www.netposterworks.com/resources/curideas/picture_a_day.html

Visit The Creative Process for crayon resist instructions and other lesson plan ideas

<http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas//index.html> plus a selection of literature, art history, science and social studies posters to create an inspirational classroom environment, along with the gallery of Global PathMarkers posters featuring Maria Montessori.

http://www.creativeprocess.net/global_pathmarkers/montessori.html



About Creative Process

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 for details!!!!**



HANDS-ON EQUATIONS®

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

Activities Submitted by Dr. Henry Borenson of Borenson and Associates, Inc.

1. What is the value of “x” that will make both sides of this equation equal:

$$2(2x+1) + 3 = 2x + 13$$

In other words, what is the number which when doubled and five is added to it, and the result is again doubled, then 3 is added to it, will result in three times the original number, increased by 16?

2. What is Sally’s age now, if ten years from now she will be twice as old as she was two years ago?

To provide your child, grade 3-8, with an interesting hands-on mathematical learning experience with basic algebraic concepts (which would make it easier for him/her to solve the above problems), look into HANDS-ON EQUATIONS® developed by Dr. Henry Borenson at the <http://www.Borenson.com> website.

1. What is the value of “x” that will make both sides of this equation equal:

$$2(2x + 3) = 2x + 14$$

In other words, what is the number which when doubled and increased by 3, and the result is again doubled, will result in twice the original number, increased by 14?

2. Sean is $\frac{2}{3}$ of Charlie's age. In 6 years, Sean will be 2 years older than Charlie is now. How old is each?

To provide your child, grade 3-8, with an interesting hands-on mathematical learning experience with basic algebraic concepts (which would make it easier for him/her to solve the above problems), look into HANDS-ON EQUATIONS® developed by Dr. Henry Borenson at the <http://www.Borenson.com> website.

The Hands-On Equations Verbal Problems Book containing more than 250 number, age, coin and distance problems is now available



About Hands-On Equations®

HANDS-ON EQUATIONS ® is a visual and kinesthetic teaching system for introducing algebraic concepts to students in grades 3 to 9.

By using the game pieces consisting of pawns and numbered cubes, the student is able to physically represent and solve algebraic linear equations such as $4x+2=2x+10$ in a manner that makes sense to them.

For more information and to view a video demonstration of HANDS-ON EQUATIONS® by an 8-year old student visit us at <http://www.Borenson.com> or call us at 1-800-993-6284.



LORD EQUIPMENT

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

The Following Information is from Richard

Free Simple Reading Books

Once again LORD Company hopes that all will take advantage of the FREE downloads found on the home page at <http://www.lordequip.com> For years the

"Simple Reading Books" have been available for download, assembly, coloring and easy reading exercises.

Free Geography Set of Land and Water Form Cards

What's new for a FREE download is a Geography study in a set of Land and Water Form Cards and Labels (includes shapes and definitions). The hands on exercise for the children would be to let them make their own Land and Water Forms. With a couple of baking dishes or small plastic trays (about 2" tall & at least 5"x7"), the children would take a matching set of the form cards (eg. Lake/Island) and with the help of an adult or older child the children will mould each form in a tray with clay (plasticine).

The child then takes blue water (mix food coloring or model acrylic blue paint with water) and pours the water into the tray to give a hands on experience of actually making a Lake and an Island. The clay then be remoulded into another set of forms (eg. Cape/Bay).

The follow up is with the cards and labels for matching the card forms for the younger children and reading exercises for older children with the definition cards. Extended study would be to find these forms on maps and globes and to look at real examples in magazines like National Geographic. All this will help the child to better realize the Earth and the language of Geography. Happy hunting for Land and Water Forms from LORD Company

<http://www.lordequip.com>



About LORD EQUIPMENT

LORD Company has been around for about 25 years now. The seeds for it were actually sown about 35 years ago when Richard and Sharon Hundley as newly trained Montessori teachers founded the first Montessori School in Elizabethtown, KY. Budget constraints was the driving force behind the self design and manufacture of Montessori Furniture, tables and chairs. This exercise later morphed into LORD Company. We would hope that the "tendency toward

perfection" extends beyond the early planes of development. At least we strive for that in LORD Products. We have a special place in our heart for the needs of Infant/Toddler programs and seek to equip teachers that are called to serve them. I, Richard, remember my teacher Margaret Stevenson say "the Elementary Montessori program is only as good as the Primary preparation". It would follow to believe the same thing about Infants/Toddlers. So our web site is named LORDEQUIP.COM to EQUIP the needs of Infants through the Primary years.

LORD Company has a new product for inside or outside physical activity and creativity. Go to www.lordequip.com to see the "Straight Line/Curved Line" material at an introductory price of \$20 for straight line and curved line sets. This product is made of thick rubber strips and is almost indestructible. Besides the introduction and hands on experience using the geometric terms children of all ages will benefit from the exploration.

*Place straight lines end to end for a safe 15 foot balance exercise.

*Children may design their own creation for balance walking.

*Make shapes with straight lines such as a triangle, trapezoid, etc.

*Curved lines can be walked on, used for a circle work area, made into concentric circles, made to intersect each other, used for set theory, used as a puzzle, used for games (bean bag toss), used with straight lines for design exploration.

We hope you will take advantage of this low introductory price and also hope you will contact us with stories of how your children make use of the material.

Call us at 270 862 4379 or e-mail us at lordequip@aol.com for age appropriate table height information or any other questions.



Intelli-Tunes™

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Website: <http://www.intelli-tunes.com>

Recipe Submitted by Ron

A Sweet Idea Submitted by Songwriter Ron Brown

HOME MADE ICE CREAM IN A BAG FOR TWO

You will need:

- 1 quart size zip lock freezer bag
- 1 gallon size zip lock freezer bag

Place the following ingredients into the smallest freezer bag.

- 1 tablespoon evaporated milk
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon egg mixture - egg substitute
- 1/8 teaspoon vanilla flavoring

Zip the bag, carefully, making sure to let as much air escape as possible. Gently shake the bag to mix the ingredients.

Place the quart size bag into the gallon zip lock bag. On either side put crushed ice and sprinkle a handful of rock salt. (You may need to add more ice toward the end.)

Zip the gallon size bag carefully. Again, let as much air escape as possible.

Partners must keep the bag moving for 10 minutes.

Open the gallon zip lock bag, remove the quart bag, place gallon bag in sink or bucket, and share the ice cream.

About Intelli-Tunes™

Intelli-Tunes are the fun and easy way to teach PreK-4th grade standards, skills and concepts! Our 2012 catalog is full of great new songs that always have kids singing, listening and learning! CD themes include: math, reading, language arts, science, geography, grammar and much much more!

Our latest toe-tapping products for home and classroom use are: "The Human Body," "Storybook Friends," "Math Beats" and "Word Mechanics." Visit our website at: <http://www.intelli-tunes.com> to hear the latest sound samples and get some great musical teaching ideas that will engage and excite children of all ages!



Fun Felt

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

Activities Submitted by FunFelt

Ice Cube Fun from Funfelt.com

Funfelt.com is a site that offers unique educational felt items for children and teachers. Through the manufacturer, The Story Teller, we offer felt board classic stories and fairy tales, science, math and social studies felts, as well as puppets, masks and finger plays. All products come with lessons and activity ideas, and some include story tapes! In addition, you can subscribe to our monthly newsletter

which features fun, engaging teaching ideas for all ages! Each month, receive a thematic mini-unit for use at home or in the classroom in your inbox. New to children's felts? Request your free sample and catalog from one of our Consultants. Find out more at <http://www.funfelt.com> Or, contact The Story Teller at susie@funfelt.com

Ice Cube Fun

- * Place ice cubes in zip lock bag. Let children crush the ice with a mallet or hammer. Pour flavoring over the crushed ice and eat with a spoon.
- * Hide ice cubes in the sandbox. Encourage children to find them.
- * Freeze water in different shaped containers. Unmold and enjoy the ice sculptures.
- * Have ice cube races. Make colorful cubes with food dye. Devise an incline using a smooth surface like a vinyl tile. Race the ice cubes down the incline.
- * Freeze large blocks of ice in trays without dividers (remember those?) or some other long flat container. Unmold and allow children to sprinkle salt on them. Observe the fantastic shapes produced by the uneven melting.
- * Have an ice cube melt race. Give each child a cube and encourage them to find ways to quickly melt their cube.
- * Create ice cube rivers. Make a sand mountain and place ice cubes on top. Watch the melt water make rivers down the side of the hills.
- * Create ice cube pictures on the hot sidewalk. Look at the design made by the melted cube on the walk.
- * Give children cubes and containers. See how many cubes the children can fit in each of the containers.
- * Ice Cube Painting: Make ice cubes in an ice cube tray. When half way frozen, stick a popsicle stick in. When ice is completely frozen, you are ready to begin. Sprinkle some powdered paint on a piece of paper. Use different colors. Give each child an ice cube

with stick and let them rub or drag it on the paper. Ask them what is happening to the powdered paint. What has happened to the ice cube?

How To Make a Flannel Board

Although I sell wonderful pre-printed educational felt boards and story figures through Story Time Felts at funfelt.com, I have found that many parents and teachers like to make their own plain felt boards to work with. You can make your own felt figures or purchase some through Story Time Felts, but making your own plain felt board of any size is easy and economical! These directions are for making a "lap board," suitable for individual stories, but you can use the same techniques to make larger flannel boards for home or classroom. If you have any questions, let me know! You can see pictures of this process on Karen's blog at <http://www.fun-activities-for-kids.com/how-to-make-a-flannel-board/>

Materials:

Stiff board, about 9" x 12" for a lap board. I used Coroplast but double walled cardboard (or 2 pieces glued together), masonite, or any other firm board works, too.

Fabric - flannel or felt, cut about 1.5 to 2 inches wider than your board, any color or pattern (try "sky" or "glitter" for fun!)

Adhesive: I really recommend 3M's 777 Multipurpose Spray Adhesive

Scissors

Packing tape

Step 1

Position your board on your fabric to make sure the sides are about evenly cut.

Step 2

Lift off the board and lightly spray the back of the fabric with the spray glue, then lay the board down again on the backside of the fabric, centered where you want it.

Step 3

Fold up the straight edged sides of the fabric and smooth down across the back edges, leaving the corners to meet up and form “bunny ears.”

Step 4

Take your scissors and snip off the “bunny ears” on each corner as close to the flannel board as you can. This will leave you with a nice mitered corner which will be flat.

Step 5

Using packing tape, tape down the straight edges on all 4 sides of the back of the flannel board. The spray glue will help the fabric stick but the tape is a little extra reinforcement. Flip it over and have some fun!

For more felt board ideas and materials from classic stories to science and math materials, visit <http://www.funfelt.com>



About Fun Felt

For more teaching ideas, fun with felt boards, and information about our business opportunity. Or to request a FREE catalog and felt sample, please visit Fun Felt for Kids -The Story Teller at <http://www.funfelt.com>
Fun Felt for Kids: <http://www.funfelt.com> or contact Susan at susie@funfelt.com

**Read the other parts of this creative hands-on lesson
planning newsletter by visiting
http://www.amonco.org/montessori_spring_handson.html**

End of Part 2

