



*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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Draw a Simple Map and Discover the World

Draw Your World- FREE Sample Drawing Lessons

Montessori Insights and Reflections of a Preschool Student's First Year

Spring Is Here – Planting a Flower Garden

Swansbury, Inc. Publications

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

Activities Submitted by Nan

Playtime with Pre-Writing Activities

Children can start to “write” before they learn an alphabet. Playtime with pre-writing activities makes learning to write fun. This is a time to learn to make marks from left-to-right, and top-to-bottom.

- 1) If you have a sandbox, or even a muddy spot in the lawn, take any old stick and scribble; make designs. If you go to a beach a finger can be the pen in the sand. Guide the child gently to move in the right directions.
- 2) Make a paper airplane. Start its flight up on the left, and let it land over on the right.
- 3) Pretend to be the orchestra leader. The music should start with the violins and move around to stage right.
- 4) Take a jelly roll pan. Put a layer of rice on it and scribble or write in the rice. You can use chocolate pudding; then lick the “writing finger!”
- 5) On to letters: You can use that writing finger (forefinger) to write in pudding or finger paint.
- 6) Try a guessing game. The parent “writes” a letter on the child’s back; the child feels the finger move and guesses the letter.



About Swansbury Publications

Publications are devoted to the promotion of better handwriting for all ages.

For beginners a package of large sheets provides pattern and letter practice. The sheets go up on an easel or a wall for the easier gross motor movements. Patterns are easier to learn than letters. Each one is matched to a letter or letters. Teaching suggestions for the teacher are included.

There are pictures that are made up of patterns for children to trace and color.

When children are ready to write words and sentences, they have no consumable workbooks. Exemplars are on a CD where the text can be edited so it relates to a student's special interests. An exemplar font lets this happen. Visit

<http://www.BFHhandwriting.com>



Cantemos

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

Activity Submitted by Georgette Baker

Yankee Doodle Hat

Take two large pieces of newspaper or a piece of butcher paper 2x2 feet long.

Place paper on child's head (if using newspaper, lay paper on head but fanning out the sheets in different directions, not evenly placed)

Have child hold paper on head as you tape a band of masking tape tightly around forehead area closest to eyebrow.



Take ends of paper and roll, scrunching tightly to desired width of hat brim, tape intermittently. Move to all sides, rolling paper in a continuous line until you reach the side you started from. Tape and decorate with a feather and ribbon to cover tape.

Cheapest feathers come from feather dusters (check the 99 Cent store)

Extension Exercises:

American Patriotic Songs in English and Spanish

Enjoy singing a patriotic American song to the music of our American military bands as children sing along with Georgette. *Bilingual CD "Patriotic American Songs/Canciones Patrioticas Americanas"* available for \$9.95 at <http://www.simplespanishsongs.com> or download from most music sites.

Children can listen and learn the words to America the Beautiful, Yankee Doodle or You're a Grand Old Flag. Learn some Spanish vocabulary as these popular songs are performed in Spanish.

Build vocabulary by writing down the words to the Pledge of Allegiance and explain the difficult words like: republic, allegiance, nation, indivisible and justice.



About Cantemos

Cantemos produces a line of children's bilingual books, music and flannel board figures. All CD's come with accompanying books of lyrics both in English and Spanish. Produced by multicultural, multilingual performer, Georgette Baker these CD's and books are for ages pre-k-6th grade. 800-393-1336, mention Montessori and receive free shipping on any Cantemos item.



Draw Your World®

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

Activities Submitted by Marie and Kim

Draw a Map of the World

Drawing Helps Children Develop a Mental Map of the World

See illustration for these instructions in their newsletter.

Age group: 5 to 95 -- this basic lesson is easily adjusted for multi-age classes.

Help children broaden their understanding of cultures, biomes, geography and history by drawing a map of the world, then encouraging the children to draw the map frequently so it becomes a mental map. For step-by-step images to assist you with this lesson, as well as other lessons, see

<http://www.drawyourworld.com/news/sign-up>

In the 1920's, when author Marie Hablitzel was a child, the students made maps so frequently that they could quickly draw California, the United States, or the World before getting to work on mountain ranges, city locations, or whatever it was they were studying. The process of creating a basic map of the world helps a child remember the relative scales, form and location of continents, oceans and countries. Some children may choose to add more details to the maps that they draw. Even if they don't, they will benefit by "seeing" their simple map of the world.

1. Look at a globe.

Show the children the geographic points and lines that will be used in the map: **The North Pole and the South Pole**—the northern and southern points of Earth's axis of rotation.

The Equator—the horizontal imaginary line that circles the Earth, halfway between the two poles.

The Prime Meridian—the vertical imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole through Greenwich, England.

2. Prepare the map paper.

Pre-fold or help the children fold a sheet of 8-1/2 x 11" paper into quarters. Reopen the paper, and position it horizontally on the desk. The horizontal fold line is the Equator, and the vertical fold line is the Prime Meridian, with the North Pole at the top of the line and the South Pole at the very bottom.

3. Draw the continents simply, without details.

Draw the continents as simple ovals. Refer to a globe or a large flat map while introducing each continent. The challenge will be to place each continent (oval) correctly on the map, using the Equator, Prime Meridian and the edges of the paper as guides for correct scale and position.

4. Label the map.

Have the children label the continents. Encourage them to write all the names horizontally and to keep the letters a consistent size. Label the geographic lines and points: Equator, Prime Meridian, N, S, E, W.

Many times, children are inspired by this basic map and go back to the map to draw the continents with the details they see on the globe. For step-by-step images to assist you with drawing lessons,

By visiting <http://www.drawyourworld.com> you can also access the following additional lessons:

Swan Lesson

Whale Lesson

Tiger Lesson

Learn more about all that Draw Your World has to offer by visiting <http://www.drawyourworld.com> To receive additional free lessons, visit <http://www.drawyourworld.com/news/sign-up>



About Draw Your World®

The website, DrawYourWorld.com, has tips and free lessons to help you draw with children. We suggest ways to integrate drawing into your language arts curriculum and present some of the products we have found helpful.

Our Draw-Write-Now® books have colorful, easy-to-use lessons that help children develop fundamental drawing skills. Each book in the eight-book series is a complete unit study, or can be used to augment your existing unit studies. Learn more by visiting <http://www.drawyourworld.com> Our email address is info@drawyourworld.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 5

