



*AMC Montessori
Spring 2010 Hands-On
Creative Lesson
Planning Newsletter*

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

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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_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.

Contents of Part VIII of the AMC Montessori Spring 2010 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

Celebrate Spring with Some Fun, Educational Nature Activities
Links to Art Extension Exercises Integrating Math, Social Studies and More...
Exploring Eggs - Food Related Activities by Montessorian Kathy O'Reilly

Nature's Workshop Plus!

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

Celebrate Spring with Some Fun, Educational Nature Activities

Spring! What a wonderful time of the year. The sunshine becomes warmer, dormant grass awakens from its necessary winter nap, trees seem to wake up and wave hello to all who take notice, and life springs from nearly every place we look. We also get to experience the spring rains which boost the season into its new identity. Your students might like to start a nature journal during this season. There is so much to record! Here are a few ideas.

1. Begin by noting the daily weather patterns and discuss how it relates to the greening of the grass. Make a grid in the journal and record the daily temperature, rainfall quantities, amount of sunshine, types of clouds, etc. Reinforce the journal concept with a study of cloud formations.
2. Sketch a tree and the growth of its leaves. Look up the scientific name of the species and record it in the journal along with its common name. Leave space in the journal for revisiting that section during the season and resketch the leaves as they grow. Once the leaf is full grown, leave enough space for a sketch of the colorful Fall leaf. You could even begin a leaf collection of several species beginning with the smallest leaves in the Spring and ending with a colorful Fall collection.
3. Record beautiful poetry about the spring season in your journal. Perhaps adding appropriate Scripture, personal thoughts, and beautiful artwork could complete each entry.
4. Plant seeds and record their growth. Small children love to plant bean seeds. Plant the bean seeds in a glass jar so that the growth is visible. They grow quickly,

and the seeds are so large that the shoot, growing up, and the root, growing down, are very easy to see. Draw the growth stages in your journal. Label all parts of the plant. Older students might like to plant flower and vegetable plants. Record the

growth data in your journal using Metric measure. Keeping careful records now allows the children to gain experience in recording data. Once they enter into the upper level sciences, lab reports will be required.

5. Have an insect section in the journal. It wouldn't be Spring and Summer without our little "friends". Again, look up and record their scientific and common names, draw the species, label its parts, record where the insect lives, and what it eats. Study the metamorphosis of the insect. Does this species experience complete or incomplete metamorphosis? Draw its life cycle. Start an ant farm and observe the diligent activity of the ant. Observe in nature or via video a butterfly leaving its chrysalis. The video "City of the Bees" examines the life of the honey bee. This video shows the inside of the hive, how the bees gather nectar, how the bees communicate, and more. It is fascinating to watch. Don't forget to serve toast and honey! Using colorful photographs as your guide, sketch the bees and their hive into the journal. Label as mentioned before.

6. Begin a rock collection. Draw what you see. Hand magnifiers or stereo microscopes allow for more detailed viewing. I haven't met a child yet who didn't have a touch of "rock hound" him or her! This activity just about requires a field guide for proper identification. A beginner guide works better for children than an overwhelming larger volume which might be harder to use.

7. Go on a nature hike and record what you do and see. Take a pair of binoculars for bird watching. Make sure to begin a bird section in your journal. They are so beautiful. Set up a bird feeding area in your yard and keep a field guide handy for quick identification. Learn the common birds of your area.

These are just a few ideas for you nature journal. Allow your imagination to help you plan. Your children might enjoy this activity better if they can decide which area in their journal to develop first. Always include art and poetry in the journal. Supply your students with a set of colored pencils, drawing pencils and a good eraser. One thing we have found is that children don't want to "mess-up" a page in their journal, so we recommend that each page be completed in a loose

leaf format then placed in a binder when the child is satisfied with the page. If you use a binder with a clear plastic cover, the students can decorate a page and insert it into the cover for a custom look! For upper elementary and middle school students, look up the taxonomy of the species being studied and note it in the journal. The more you do toward preparation for high school biology the better.

Nature journaling will also require nature studying. The "Handbook of Nature Study", by Anna Botsford Comstock, is an excellent resource for a teacher or parent who needs to know more about topics in nature. The book was originally published in 1911 and contains 887 pages. It is divided into 4 major sections: The Teaching of Nature Study, Animals, Plants, and Earth and Sky. It is a store house of information to help you teach your children/students about nature.

With so much to see and do this Spring, don't forget to take time for simple, peaceful, observation. Children need quiet time in their lives to reflect, think and form opinions about life. They can learn from observing nature, listening to nature, studying nature, drawing nature, planting, being outside, getting dirty, splashing in a creek, and chasing butterflies! If we can teach them to enjoy these lovely God-given gifts, we are giving them an enormous gift that no mass media gimmick can ever match.

Blessings to you,

Diana Ruark

Nature's Workshop Plus!

For free catalog or more information:

(888) 393-5663

<http://www.naturesworkshopplus.com>

All resources mentioned in the article are available through Nature's Workshop, Plus.



About Nature's Workshop Plus!

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



Cooking With Children Can Be Easy

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Website: <http://www.amcenterprises.net/cookingwithchildren.html>

Celebrate Spring with Some Fun, Educational Nature Activities

EXPLORING EGGS - FOOD RELATED ACTIVITIES

Liquid to Solid and Solid to Liquid

Heat a griddle to about 325 degrees ^Close adult supervision required

Place 1 Tablespoon of butter or margarine on the griddle

Crack an egg into a bowl -pour onto griddle

Which one changed from a solid to a liquid?

Which one changed from a liquid to a solid?

*Help the children research the different types of bird nests and why different birds need different types of nests.

*Let the children gather twigs, straw, feathers, etc. to build nests

*Wash and dry empty eggshells. Let the children use a mortar and pestle to crush them, then use for fertilizing plants or color the crushed shells by mixing with a little rubbing alcohol and food coloring, then spreading on a paper bag to dry to use for creating mosaics.

*If you are not fortunate enough to have a hen around, hatch chicken, duck and geese eggs in an incubator ^ be sure you have a good home for them. Make charts of the length of time it takes to incubate each type.

*Show children how to tell a hard boiled egg from a raw egg. Lay one hardboiled and one raw egg on a tray with 1" sides so they won't roll off. Spin each egg. The one that wobbles is raw (liquid inside is moving). The one that spins easily is hardboiled.

*Discuss-

What kind of bird lays the eggs we buy in stores (chicken)

The eggs we usually buy in stores are not fertilized, so there are no baby chicks growing in them.

What kind of bird lays the smallest egg (humming bird)

What kind of bird lays the largest egg (ostrich)

An egg is an ovoid shape. What is the difference between an ovoid and an ellipsoid? (The ovoid is smaller at one end and the ellipsoid is the same size at both ends.

Books

Egg-ventures ^ 1st Science Experiments by Harry Milgrom

Katie,s Chickens by Nancy Digman Watson

Chickens Aren,t the Only Ones by Ruth Heller

The Woman With the Eggs by Hans Christian Anderson

The Egg Book by Jack Kent

The Cake That Mack Ate by Rose Robart & Maryann Kovalski

Chicken and Egg by Christine Back
Eggbert by Tom Ross & Rex Barron



About Cooking With Children Can Be Easy

Listed above are just a few of the food related activities and books you will find in *Cooking With Children Can Be Easy-The Complete System for Single Portion Recipes* by Kathy O,Reilly. This manual cuts teacher preparation time by 75% by providing the picture/word cards, exact equipment list, shopping list, information to discuss, related books and related activities for every recipe.

A 17 Recipe Supplement, No Heat Edition and a Home Edition are available in addition to the Original Manual. For more information, please visit <http://www.amcenterprises.net/cookingwithchildren.html>

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 8

