



AMC Montessori Summer 2011 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

Published by American Montessori Consulting

Heidi Anne Spietz, Editor

2011© All Rights Reserved.

<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_summer_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 right now 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 II of the AMC Montessori Summer 2011 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

Hobby City - Fun for Free This Summer
Classified Seashell Activity Exercises
Stalactites and Stalagmites
Summer Fruit, Cheese and Meat Kabobs
Inequalities - Pre Algebra Lessons
Basketball and Whole Body Memorizing Activity
Watermelon Blueberry Banana Split
(From Montessori Teacher Kathy O'Reilly's
Cooking With Children Can Be Easy)
A Bit of Yarn for Good Pen Hold
A Page for the Letter O
Unit Study of the Nervous System

American Montessori Consulting

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

Website: <http://www.amonco.org>

Hobby City - Fun for Free This Summer

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 Stamps & Coins At Hobby City and 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
For additional free lesson planning visit <http://www.amonco.org>

Conceptual Learning

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

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

Recipe Contributed by Dianne

Below is a delicious treat that friends and family will enjoy.

Summer Fruit, Cheese, and Meat Kabobs

Things you need:

Different kinds of fruit; choose two-to-four from the following:

Canned or fresh pineapple chunks

Cantaloupe, cut into cubes

Honeydew melon, cut into cubes

Watermelon, cut into cubes

Seedless grapes

Sliced bananas

Fresh strawberries

Sliced apples

Sliced peaches

Seedless orange segments

Fresh peaches

Fresh or dried apricots

Raisins

Cheese; choose from the following:

Cheddar cheese, cubed

Swiss cheese, cubed

Meat (optional); Choose from the following:

Ham, precooked & chilled, and cut

Precooked fajita meat

Chicken or turkey breast, precooked & chilled

Cocktail franks, precooked

Sliced franks (any kind)
Vienna sausages, canned

Bamboo skewers or long toothpicks

What you do:

Make sure any foods you want to put on your kabobs are cut in bite-size pieces. All meat should be precooked. On each skewer, thread a mixture of fruit, cheese, and meat as desired. Serve as a finger food.

Math Activity Contributed by Dianne

Inequalities

A great pre-algebra exercise for elementary-age students is Inequalities.

This series introduces the variable x and builds on the relationship symbols $>$, $<$, \geq , and \leq . The attached pages includes six different exercises. Each problem set has one large card and six small cards. The pieces designated “A” consist of the first problem, those with “B” make up the second problem, and so on. The page may be laminated if heavy use is expected. Then the cards are cut out and stored in one box, envelope, or hardware drawer.

In each problem, the large card is the inequality. The child first separates the exercise into sections A, B, C, D, E, and F as pictured. Then he or she puts the solution next to the inequality, and put the cards that are not solutions to the side. This is the first of 15 exercises that make up the set Inequalities. The subsequent exercises get progressively more difficult and include some set and number line notation such as rational numbers and infinite sets. The entire exercise set is available at <http://www.conceptuallearning.com>

For free lessons of inequalities, please visit the following links:

<http://www.amonco.org/Inequalities.pdf>

<http://www.amonco.org/Inequalitiesinstruction.GIF>

<http://www.amonco.org/Inequalities2.gif>



About Conceptual Learning

Conceptual Learning Materials has introduced several new series into the Insights into Math Concepts line.

To ease the children into more abstract fraction work, we have introduced "Fraction Match," a series of 15 matching exercises that include graphics, verbal expressions, and fraction symbols for various configurations. These include numerators of one, numerators greater than one, fraction of a set, improper fractions, mixed numbers, fractions on a number line, equivalencies, and simple addition of fractions. The work is appropriate for students in 2nd through 4th grades. Other recent fraction releases include "Fraction Operations" which focuses on addition & subtraction of unlike fractions. "More Fraction Operations" includes multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers as well as a comprehensive overview of all fraction operations. Previously released fraction series include "Fraction Concepts," "Fraction Line and Labels," and "Fraction Order."

Three levels of time have also been introduced. The incremental matching cards encompass time to the hour, half hour, quarter hour, five-minutes, and time intervals of varying difficulty.

"Introduction to Decimals" has been expanded to include mixed rounding and as well as operations involving one and two-place decimals. Previously released decimal series include "Decimal Line and Labels," "Decimal Order," "Advanced Decimals," as well as "Decimal/Fraction Equivalencies."

Please contact us for a new catalog and be sure to visit

<http://www.conceptuallearning.com/>. We are looking forward to hearing from you



Coaching for Learning-Success™

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

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

Game Contributed by Mariaemma

Basketball & Whole Body Memorizing

Kids who are tactile-kinesthetic, whole body learners, and/or like basketball love this learning activity!

Put facts to be memorized on 5x8 cards, cardboard squares, tiles, etc. Then instruct student to bounce the ball on the card, say the fact, and shoot a basket. This will work for math facts, vocabulary words, or other facts such as states and capitals, presidents, etc. It is recommended that you limit it to 4 or 5 facts at a time. When these are learned add new ones.

This activity can be adapted when a hoop is not available. For example,

1. instead of shooting baskets, 2 students can work together, bouncing ball and throwing back and forth to each other
2. student can bounce the ball on a card and simply catch it while saying the fact.



About Coaching for Learning Success™

Coaching for Learning-Success™ News:

The Learning-Success™ Institute continues to offer products and services that bring out the star in every child!

We are very excited to announce our new Link-Up™ Unit Study series for classroom or home use, for all ages, including adults. The first three are:

Link-Up™ to Math: Multiplication Facts

Link-Up™ to Spelling: Weird Words

Link-Up™ to Writing Part 1: Laying the Foundation

Although these programs work for all learning styles, they are especially designed for the visual picture and tactile/kinesthetic/whole body/sketching learners. The Multiplication Fact course features a CD with songs that rhyme and laminated picture cards. The Spelling and Writing programs allow non-print learners to be successful by utilizing hands-on and picture strategies. Lesson plans that work for 9 week, 18 week, or 36 week programs are included.

For complete information about these courses, or to find out about our **learning style assessments, Learning-Success™. Coach training, free monthly email newsletter, Associate Programs,** and more, please visit our website: <http://www.learningsuccesscoach.com>



Cooking with Children Can Be Easy

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

Recipe Submitted by Kathy

This is a recipe from "Cooking With Children Can Be Easy - The COMPLETE System for Single Portion Recipes-- 17 Recipe Supplement" by Kathy O'Reilly. The idea is from the National Watermelon Promotion Board and the North American Blueberry Council. Their version of the recipe was in The Huntsville Times (Huntsville, Alabama) Food Section on Wednesday, July 19, 1995. A healthy snack for a hot day:

Watermelon Blueberry Banana Split

....try with other melons ...

STEP #		DIRECTION CARD	SEQUENCE CARD #
1.	Split -	1/3 Banana	(184)
2.	Scoop -	1 ball Watermelon	(183)
3.	Add -	1 Tablespoon Blueberries	(187)
4.	Add -	1 Tablespoon Vanilla Yogurt	(188)
5.	Sprinkle -	1 teaspoon chopped Nuts	(189)
6.	Place -	1/2 Cherry on top	(190)

SHOPPING LIST FOR 20 CHILDREN

- ___ 8 Bananas
- ___ 1 medium Watermelon
- ___ 3 cups (1 1/2 pints) Blueberries
- ___ 2 (8 oz.) cartons Vanilla Yogurt
- ___ 1 1/2 cups chopped Pecans or other nuts
- ___ 1 cup Cherries
- ___ 24 Paper Bowls

STATION SET-UP OF EQUIPMENT

Place 24 paper bowls to the left of Station 1.

Step 1- Tray, large bowl for bananas, compost container for peels
serrated knife, cutting board, damp washcloth for messy fingers

Step 2- Tray, ice cream scoop

Step 3- Tray, medium bowl for blueberries, 1 Tablespoon measure

Step 4- Tray, medium bowl for yogurt, 1 Tablespoon measure, rubber
spatula to level & scoop yogurt out of spoon

Step 5- Tray, medium bowl for nuts, 1 teaspoon measure

Step 6- Tray, medium bowl for cherry halves

NOTES

- * Let the children wash the blueberries and cherries ahead of time.
- * Cut cherries into halves and pit ahead of time.
- * You can mark the peels of the bananas with a ballpoint pen and let the children cut them into thirds by cutting on the line.

DISCUSS

Before * How the different fruits are grown (cherries grow on trees, melons grow on vines, bananas are herbaceous plants whose leaves form the trunk-like stem; blueberries grow on bushes)

Before * The shapes, colors, and textures of the fruits

Before * The difference between the outside and inside of each fruit (ex. watermelon is green and hard on the outside, but red(usually), soft, juicy on the inside)

During * How to cut the banana into thirds by cutting on the line made with the pen.

During * What "1/3" means (the second or bottom number tells how many parts to divide it into and the first or top number tells how many of those parts to get)

During * How to place the scoop over the watermelon with the opening down, then twist it to the side and down into the melon, making the scoop turn up and around to form a ball.

After * Other fruits they would like to try (ex. strawberries)

After * How yogurt is made (by adding enzymes to milk and cooking it at a low temperature)

BOOKS

- ♥ "The Food Pyramid" by Joan Kalbacken
- ♥ "Waiting for Cherries" by
- ♥ "The Great Giant Watermelon Birthday" by Vera B. Williams

ACTIVITIES

♥ Let the children estimate the weight, the circumference, and the number of seeds in the melon. Record their estimates, then weigh and measure it. Collect the seeds after cutting and scooping out melon. Weigh the rind after it has been cleaned out and let the children figure out how much the seeds and flesh weighed by subtracting the weight of the rind from the total weight.

- ♥ Wash and dry the watermelon seeds then:
 - let the children count them. Make sets of 10 in small cups, then when you get 10 sets, pour them into a larger cup for 100. Count the units, then the sets of 10's, then the 100's. Read the whole number.
 - use the seeds for counting or math operations.
 - use the seeds for mosaics.
 - use the seeds for a spooning activity.
- ♥ The name of the recipe makes a great chant. Let the children count the syllables.
- ♥ Compare the number and size of the seed in of the fruits.



About Cooking With Children Can Be Easy

Kathy an experienced, excellent Montessori directress, author and cook describes her program as follows:

"The children *read* the picture/word cards arranged from left to right, learning to follow a sequence... As they enjoy their cooking experiences, the children are building their vocabularies and developing a true understanding of the meanings.

*The children experience science first hand as they observe heat causing the baking powder to react which makes the muffins rise, margarine to change from a solid to a liquid, and eggs to change from liquid to a solid.

Math concepts are easy to absorb as a child counts, measures, experiments with volume, and cuts food into fractions.....Geography and history come to life as the children study the origins of ingredients and recipes, as well as the history of cooking utensils.

The news that "Cooking With Children Can Be Easy - The Complete System for Single Portion Recipes" cuts teacher preparation time by 75% continues to spread! It is already being used in more than 2,000 classrooms/programs in 47 states and 14 foreign countries. Requests are being made to translate it

into Spanish, British English, and German. For teachers already using the system, a "17 Recipe Supplement" is now available. Teachers who are not allowed to use a heat source in their classrooms are delighted the "NO Heat" Edition can now be ordered.

This wonderful article was contributed by the late Kathy O'Reilly. Her daughter, who holds copyright for this material, has generously agreed to share this information with the American Montessori Consulting readers.



Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting System

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

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

A Bit of Yarn for Good Pen Hold

Activity by Nan Barchowsky



Help young hands to have a good pencil hold. To all who knit or crochet, use scraps and make small balls of yarn, just the right size to fit in the palm of a young hand. Wool is best for its tactile quality.

The child secures the ball in the palm with the ring and little fingers, then holds a writing tool with thumb and index (writing!) finger, with the third finger supporting the pencil or marker. Short pencils have the best balance in young hands.

A Page for the Letter O

For another free lesson and with writing paper template, please visit http://www.amonco.org/ooo_owl_page.pdf



About Barchowsky Handwriting System

Barchowsky Fluent Handwriting is easy to teach, easy to learn. No boring workbooks! Printed text guides the user. Lessons and exemplars are on a CD. Users print out pages as presented, or edit them so the student practices writing about their special interests. You can even create custom pages to make learning to write really cool.

Beginners start with fun activities to establish habits of movement that support effective handwriting. They learn one simple alphabet. Then with no changes to the letterforms, they join letters for legible, fast, individual writing. No problematic letter changes to write "cursive!" No retraining of fine motor skills! Adults who, as children, learned to write with this program prove its success.

Learn about this innovative, logical program at [BFHhandwriting.com](http://www.BFHhandwriting.com), by visiting <http://www.BFHhandwriting.com> - phone 410-272-0836 or e-mail njbarch@mac.com.



American Montessori Consulting

Copyright 2011

All Rights Reserved.

Website: <http://www.amonco.org>

Grade 2 - 12 Study of the Nervous System

Unit Study by Heidi Anne Spietz

The website link below will lead you to a complete unit study on the human nervous system. The Grade 2 -12 science lesson planning links will lead you to articles, hands-on activities and other exercises that are compatible with the Montessori classified science reading cards, creative writing and other extensive lesson plans found in Montessori lesson planning. Some of the lessons will also be useful for postsecondary students.

Several complete neurological medical terminology lists in .pdf with pronunciation are available free of charge. (The pronunciation guide was originally designed for ESL university students majoring in nursing.)

The information will help older students to see and hear how Greek and Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes are combined to form the various neurological medical terms.

To access this free unit study visit Montessori Unit Study – The Human Nervous System Unit Study - http://www.amonco.org/montessori_nervous_system.html

End of Part 2

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

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_summer_handson.html

Looking for additional hands-on lessons? Don't forget to read the companion newsletters. Just visit

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_winter_handson.html

http://www.amonco.org/montessori_spring_handson.html

and

Visit <http://www.amonco.org/> for additional lesson planning information.

