



AMC Montessori Summer 2009 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_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 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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What Type of Learner is Your Child?? -How Can YOU Help Each Child Reach His Potential

Interdisciplinary Math and Music Activity for

ECE and Elementary Children

Middle School Word Puzzles

Free Reading Books, Land and Water Labels and Math Bank Activity

MTE, Ltd.

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

Working with Notations - A Math Activity

Using as many as you need of the four basic operations, parentheses and brackets, and exactly five digit fours; create as many notations as you can for the numbers 1 to 20. For example, a notation for seven is $4 + [(4 + 4 + 4) \div 4]$.

Answers for this activity appear in the Instructor's Manual for Critical Thinking Approach to Beginning Algebra (Chapter 4, Unit A, Exercise # 78). All 20 numbers have notations of this type and many have more than one notation.

The MTE textbooks incorporate several unique features to build understanding and enhance critical thinking. The materials include exercises that support the understanding of math vocabulary and facilitate the reading of mathematics texts as well as open ended questions to promote discussions of math concepts. The series also includes the traditional sets of drill and practice exercises and problem sets when appropriate. MTE Test Kits allow a student to pre-test and identify concepts they already understand (and can "skip") or those that will require careful study in order to achieve mastery.

The MTE text series creates a stairway to Calculus. Step one is Competency Arithmetic (a reexamination of arithmetic) ; step two is Geometric and Measurement Topics (a pre-algebra - geometry text); step three is Beginning Algebra (Algebra-I); followed by Intermediate Algebra (Algebra-II); ending with Pre-Calculus (advanced algebra & trigonometry). The MTE text presentation is clean, attractive, and readable. Explanation of concepts is complete and helps students tackle and master the material. Graphics are used to help explain concepts.

Learn About Transverable Curves

Visit http://www.amonco.org/images/mte_montessori.jpg to see a free math problem solving sample.

THINKING APPROACH TO MATHEMATICS

Materials and Technology for Education Limited (MTE Ltd.) is a publishing company attempting to ensure student success by changing the way mathematics is being presented. MTE publishes a series of mathematical texts with accompanying Instructor's Manuals and Test Kits which emphasize understanding math concepts and utilize a critical thinking approach to problem solving to promote success, as opposed to memorizing math. CRITICAL THINKING APPROACH TO TEACHING MATHEMATICS texts of MTE were particularly designed to improve student motivation and student attitude by increasing the amount of student success in understanding mathematical concepts. These texts have been written especially for using the principles of active learning in discussion groups that involve critical thinking skills.

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

Based on the thoughts of Piaget and Montessori; Educational Critical Thinking is logical and productive thinking that is capable of extending ideas, creating new ideas, and synthesizing patterns of thought. Educational Critical Thinking is a type of disciplined reasoning. Educational Critical Thinking must be self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective.



Fun With Languages

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

Hands On 'Fun With Languages' Links ~ Submitted by Rick

I've put up the new version of Fun With Languages on the site.

<http://www.duendeanimation.com/FWN>



About Fun With Languages

Fun With Languages - Newest Products

Rick recently shared the following information:

"Whether you are English-speaking and want to introduce your child to another language, or trying to teach your children-or yourself-English as a second language, our program is designed to make learning language exciting and fun," says Rick Hinds. "Our philosophy is that as the United States becomes more richly diverse, with Hispanic, Asian and other ethnic groups growing in size, all of our children will be better prepared for the future if they learn other languages now. "For questions, product samples, articles, helpful teaching hints, and ordering information visit the web site at <http://www.funwithlanguages.com>

We take pleasure in announcing the **Fun with Colors Workbook** - a unique interactive educational tool, designed to accompany the video or work as a stand-alone product. The workbook is for children 18 months to 5 years of age. The images are presented the same on both pages. One side of the page is in full

color while the other side of the page is for the children to color. The workbook is available in English-Spanish.

We are offering a VHS, CD and workbook for \$ 24.99 We also have discounts on orders of 24 or more workbooks. Shortly we will be announcing our new product: Fun with Numbers - VHS, DVD and Workbook.”

Editors Note: I have examined some of the Fun With Languages learning materials. The videos are outstanding. Consistent with the Montessori method, children will use these videos to learn new words, incorporate them into their everyday language and easily learn to think in both English and the second language presented. The films are of masterfully done, offering colorful illustrations and a unique interactive quality that reinforces language immersion.

Children can easily learn foreign languages using the integrated approach of videos and music and more! Visit <http://www.funwithlanguages.com> for complete details.



LORD Company

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

*Free Reading Books, Montessori Land and Water Labels
and Math Bank Activity Submitted by Richard*

For the last few years we have been offering FREE downloads of "Simple Reading Books" on our web site at <http://www.lordequip.com> and recently offered the fourth in our Graded Reading Series with instructions on how to coach early readers in a way that insures "Success" and puts them on a road to reading.

Our hope is that teachers will connect their parents to our web site and download these books to work with their children for quality parent/child time. Speaking of "Quality Time" you will see a new product on our home page that would make a great Gift for Father's Day or whatever. It's a T-shirt with a road map on the back (with car included) for the child's road trip on the back of the parent. Fun for the child and a massage at the same time.

Since we have finished the FREE downloads for reading, we figured it was time to move on to "Writing." Besides a half-price sale on our "Writing Folder Curriculum," we have some new black line master books for writing practice and some FREE download samples for you to try out at no cost. Let us know how you like the program and maybe next year we will have to do some FREE downloads of "Rithmetic." <http://www.lordequip.com>

"The Bank" is a free math download. This lesson plan is useful to help children with counting, adding, subtraction and an introduction to the concept of 100 percent and the % sign. It also begins a lifelong discipline of money management.

3) For geography LORD Company is offering the land and water form cards and labels as a free download. Richard, from LORD Company, recently shared the following:

"This is a \$15 value made free to all visitors to LORD Company at lordequip.com. There are 10 different land and water forms found on the earth. **This set has labels for reading and placing on the correct form such wonderful words as "archipelago" and "isthmus" which rhymes with Christmas.** There are also definitions cards for each form that are to be cut apart and then reassembled as a puzzle to challenge the child in reading skills as well as matching the definition to the correct form."

There was a quote from a motivational teacher that said to a group of attendees that were hoping to become more successful in sales that said, "*Motivation is the Soul of Success.*" This is sound advice for someone that depends upon the close of a sale for their livelihood. It doesn't work the same way with a child. For a child a permutation becomes the truth. For a child, *Success is the Motivation of the Soul.*



About LORD Company

Here are some additional new offerings from LORD Company:

We have "Vocational Tables" including a baking table, craft tables and carpenter tables. See <http://www.lordequip.com>

SCIENCE

PL-475LOOK is a Window Table with Plexiglas top that offers exercises in observation, classification, spoken language work and "Endless Possibilities" for 4 through early elementary age.

NEW CLASSROOMS - Infants/Toddlers

LORD Company has hard to find equipment and size appropriate furniture for infants and toddlers. We have seven pieces of furniture that explore all aspects of walking such as: straight forward, side step, side step curved, forward curved, include and steps. Our new product for the infant toddler is IT-347, the Trapezoidal Tunnel. This is a sturdy piece of furniture to crawl through, pull up, sit in, climb on, etc.

Lord Company has a series of products designed for "Writing to Perfection". Our newest product in this group is a set of 10 groups of writing cards for children to "model" on their own writing paper. The "graded" approach encourages success, a self-paced work and repetition to perfection. It includes both manuscript and cursive exercises.

PRACTICAL LIFE

Our newest product helps children as it concerns large and small motor control. PE-384 "Sawing Exercise" is appropriate for upper twos through 6 years for psychomotor development.

To see the complete line of products available from Lord Company, please visit <http://www.lordequip.com>



Farm Country General Store

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

Cinnamon Rolls Recipe Submitted by Larry

Ingredients for the Cinnamon Rolls

1/2 cup lukewarm water
2 packages of yeast
6 cups unbleached flour
3 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup sugar
2/2 cup butter, melted

Ingredients for the icing

1/4 cup butter
1 1/4 cups sifted powdered sugar
3 1/2 tsp cream
1/4 tsp vanilla

Directions for making the cinnamon rolls.

First, dissolved the yeast in water and let set. Scald milk, sugar and salt. Cool until it is lukewarm. Add yeast and 3 cups of the flour. Cover for 1/2 hour. Beat eggs and sugar together. Mix together with first mixture and add melted butter. Add more flour; mix with spoon. When you can't stir with a spoon it is enough (not with your hands) Let rise again, then roll and spread with melted butter and sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon. Let rise again. Bake at 350 F degrees for 20 to 30 minutes.

Directions for making the icing

Cream butter. Blend in powdered sugar, alternately with cream. Add vanilla.



About Farm Country General Store

Here is what the owner has to say about Farm Country General Store: "We have searched the highways and byways to bring your family the latest and best in educational products to make your homeschool a success. The products are carefully selected for their overall excellent content. We represent several companies and are happy to special order products for you that you don't see listed in this catalog."

World Views of the Western World, Learning Language Arts through Literature, Easy Grammar, Spelling Power, Beautiful Feet Titles, Lamb's Book of Art, G.A. Titles, Making Math Meaningful, and Five in a Row Unit Study are just some examples of what you will find between the pages of the company's 176 page catalog.

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



Visual Manna

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

Free Visual Manna Art Newsletter - Click on the link below:

<http://www.scholarsquare.com/app/file/qEdO0FAAcx7/Visual%20Manna%20Newsletter:%20April-June%202009.pdf>

What Type of Learner is Your Child?? -How Can YOU Help Each Child Reach His Potential

As parents and educators, we have the wonderful opportunity of teaching our children in the best ways possible! We innately know that each of our children are marvelously different.

When most of us were young, analysis of the best way each individual child learns was uncharted territory. Most of us experienced classes where subjects were taught in a workbook approach. "Hands on" learning was unheard of. Art was considered an enhancement to the curriculum, but not a necessity. There is a saying, "Tell me and I forget, show me, and I remember, involve me and I understand." When you consider what this means, you can truly understand the importance of using art as a learning tool.

A very simple example is to think about how you were learning how to bake a cake using a certain recipe, or build a certain dog house. How much do you remember when you simply read a recipe? How much do you remember if you watch the cake being made?

Now consider the amount you remember when you actually bake the cake yourself. The same is true of building a birdhouse or anything else. The well known Dale Carnegie's Cone of Learning says that we remember 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we see and hear and 70% of what we hear, see and say and 90% of what we do.

One of the most delightful lessons that my sons and I did was a perfect example of the truth of this research. We did a study on the solar system. First, we read about the solar system, studied the planets and outer space. Next, we made a model of the solar system out of paper mache. My older son made a space ship. We created a solar system calendar using a blank calendar template and entered the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Art Competition.

The best thing that we did was have several families over and my sons taught a lesson on the solar system. They answered questions and showed examples. By the time they were finished, I had two enthusiastic outer space experts, excited with the opportunity to learn!

I believe our goal and opportunity as teachers is to make learning exciting and fun! In my opinion to simplify things, there are basically three important learning styles.

Auditory learners tend to enjoy more traditional teaching techniques. Using a lecture-style forum, and regulating voice tone, inflection, and body language can help children maintain interest and pay attention. Watching a character on Sesame Street or VeggieTales, and seeing the interesting vocal tones, body language and inflection and auditory learning taking place is a good example. Information needs to be presented and communicated in a verbally interesting way.

Visual learners rely upon a visual learning style: "Show me and I'll understand." Visual learners benefit from diagrams, charts, pictures, films, and written directions. These students will benefit from to do lists, assignment logs, and written notes. Research has shown that allowing them to draw the answer, and doodle while they are taking notes helps them to retain information.

The majority of children are best served by the **kinesthetic means of learning**: touching, feeling, and experiencing the material at hand. I appreciate the following quote as it supports the importance of hands on learning throughout life. "Children enter kindergarten as kinesthetic and tactual learners, moving and touching everything as they learn. By second or third grade, some students have become visual learners. During the late elementary years some students, primarily

females, become auditory learners. Yet, many adults, especially males, maintain kinesthetic and tactual strengths throughout their lives."(Teaching Secondary Students Through Their Individual Learning Styles, Rita Stafford and Kenneth J. Dunn; Allyn and Bacon, 1993).

One of the exciting things about art education and learning, is that it meets the needs of all learning styles. It allows all of the core subjects to be taken a thread further. It allows children the freedom to think and problem solve after the core information has been introduced.

An example of this is to study a famous bridge in history. What was its historical significance? You can look at the bridge from an aesthetic point of view. You can appreciate its beauty. Why is it visually pleasing? You can look at it from an engineering point of view. How did they do that?

Just as the first engineer and inventor of systematic perspective, Brunelleschi, invented ways to get his designed dome in two pieces to the top of the building in Florence, children can draw and calculate how the master engineer of the bridge put it together.

Finally, he can invent and design his very own bridge! He can even write verses about the beauty of the bridge or write an expository paragraph on how he did it. Making choices and individual creativity and problem solving is the most important part of the learning experience.

Einstein said "Imagination is more important than knowledge." An early American inventor named Kettering lamented over the educational process. To paraphrase, he said that it taught that failure was bad, but when looked at from the perspective of an inventor, many failures were needed to succeed.

Edison failed over 1000 times before inventing the light bulb. Art allows children the freedom to try and fail and know that it is ok. There are many different ways in art to achieve success; just as there are many different buildings that an architect could design that would fit on a particular piece of land.

The great part of being a teacher is the encouragement you can give at the finish of each design the student creates. Success builds on success and soon your student is achieving beyond what you could ever imagine. Even if you can only sincerely compliment the way the student uses the color green, just that one encouraging word builds for future success.

In Art For The Fun of It by Peggy Davison Jenkins, this idea is further supported. “The teacher or parent needs to assume leadership in bringing out the creativity within the child, not imposing one’s own ideas. The most important thing a child learns in school (or anywhere) are ideas about him/herself. So often these ideas form into an “I can’t”...Art for such children could be the one bright light in the curriculum, the time of day or week when they can ...” I believe this reinforcing of their self concept can help them succeed in all aspects of their learning experience.

In every subject area you can have projects that allow creativity and problem solving and reinforce the core subject that you are teaching. Science, math, English, history, and geography all have co-related hands on art activities that delight children and meet the needs of the kinesthetic and visual learner.

Beginning a science lesson with a picture from the master artist Bierdstadt studying rainbows and waterfalls, “Niagara” <http://cgfa.sunsite.dk/bierstadt/p-bierstadt22.htm> in science, followed by writing a haiku poem about the picture in English, then calculating the size of the waterfall in math, and techniques in atmospheric perspective in art, and land formations in geography make memorable lessons for children.

Tessellations and fractals, drawing with geometric shapes, and art by Mondrian or Escher reinforce math core learning. Writing concrete poetry, drawing a caricature and writing a character sketch, and creating comic strip art are just three of many ways to reinforce English learning.

Bringing a story to life is an important aspect of communicating ideas. In Breakpoint Worldview, 2002, Collen Carroll in an article Tolkein, Transformer of Culture says, “Through his use of fantasy, invented languages, and mythical realms and creatures, Tolkein forces readers to check their own beliefs at the door and adopt, for a time, his worldview.

Suddenly, the same readers who would snooze through a didactic presentation of Christian morality are willing to embrace that morality in the context of Tolkein’s engrossing narrative. Their imaginations are captivated, and their minds are open. They will not convert overnight...but their attitudes can be transformed by a captivating story.”

I remember reading the quote from a national publication saying that C.S.Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia hold many a trap for the unwary atheist. Reinforcing stories visually further impacts their significance on learning thereby touching visual, kinesthetic and auditory learners.

Cynthia Tobias, in her excellent book *The Way They Learn* says, "Parents rarely intentionally frustrate their children, but intentional or not, it happens...The challenge for parents is to find positive ways of building on their children's natural strengths without sacrificing desired bottom-line outcomes." This book is a definite must read if you want to learn how to teach your children in their own learning style.

I remember doing a presentation for a group of parents and children at an art competition. One child in a particular family was so proud of a cardinal she had drawn a picture of for her science study of birds. Her brother had created a battle scene from a Civil War battle of great importance. The pictures were delightful.

My own sons have achieved success in education and more importantly are lifelong learners. They are excited about learning new things. There are many aspects of learning that must be mastered with techniques and memorization. However, if problem solving, creativity and invention are not encouraged as part of this learning, there is a chance that many potentially great minds will be hopelessly lost to society. Art is truly the key to unlock the potential hidden within so many children. You can go to our website at <http://www.visualmanna.com> for more information.



About Visual Manna

Visual Manna is an art company dedicated to serving the needs of home and school educators. The company provides art curriculum and art projects which use *art* to reinforce core subjects. Visit Visual Manna to see the diversified selection of offerings.

The company carries a fine selection of art supplies and videos and provides many other services as well. Visual Manna presents art workshops nationwide on various topics, offers camp experiences for gifted art students plus a camp where children are treated to learning more about horsemanship, ballet/gymnastics and art from trained professionals. Sharon recently shared the following with me:

“We are now doing internet workshops for all ages. Go to visualmanna.com and check out our offerings. Do you want to know how to use a computer and do graphic design, computer art and animation and even video production? Watch our website for more information. Visit <http://www.visualmanna.com> for additional details. We have added a complete unit study program to our big curriculum and our younger student complete curriculum is the Artsy Animals program....all our books have corresponding workshops. We can even do one live for your support group if you have access to the computers or a computer lab. Call 1-888-275-7309 or write us at Visual Manna, P.O. Box 553, Salem, MO 65560.”
Just copy and paste or click on these websites:”

For additional information, including some FREE lesson planning, just copy and paste or click on these websites:

[http://www.scholarsquare.com/Visual Manna's - Artsy Animals Newsletter Apr-May-Jun.pdf](http://www.scholarsquare.com/Visual%20Manna's%20-%20Artsy%20Animals%20Newsletter%20Apr-May-Jun.pdf)

[http://www.scholarsquare.com/app/file/qEdO0FAAcx7/Visual%20Manna%20Newsle
tter:%20April-June%202009.pdf](http://www.scholarsquare.com/app/file/qEdO0FAAcx7/Visual%20Manna%20Newsle%20tter:%20April-June%202009.pdf)

You may need to copy and paste the following links, but it will be well worth your time to do so.

Contact info: E-mail visualmanna@gmail.com Visit <http://www.visualmanna.com> for more details, including pricing and ordering information. **today!**



Intelli-Tunes™

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

This company has a special treat for their website visitors. Visit their site and discover the free music download and a "hands on" PDF page for the math concept GREATER THAN/LESS THAN on the Intelli-Tunes™ web site. The free song is called "The Number Eating Alligator" and is available in Real Audio or MP3.

Editor's Note: Classroom teachers, curious about how the company's songs could be used in the classroom, should download the materials available at the company's website. Both school and home educators, interested in interdisciplinary lesson planning for young children, will readily see how these songs could be incorporated into the ECE and elementary math and music lesson planning.

The downloadable song "The Number Eating Alligator" will delight young children as they listen to the lively melody and lyrics. The equally fun, educational accompanying downloadable activities, will reinforce the concepts introduced in the "The Number Eating Alligator" song. Visit

<http://www.intelli-tunes.com/whatsnew.htm#for%20Teachers> for details.



About Intelli-Tunes™

Intelli-Tunes™ has a current line of **20 audio CD recordings for PreK-4** and is recommended by **LEARNING** magazine!

The recordings are written to enrich and accelerate learning across the curriculum with memorable songs and raps and chants. Each CD is aligned with national standards, basic skills or educational themes. They are extremely versatile teaching resources that can be used as stand-alone lessons or follow-up enrichment.

Intelli-Tunes™ provide children with tremendous amounts of information that uniquely connect them to the curriculum. The lively tunes and stimulating lyrics make learning concepts, skills and standards fun and easy. Teaching and learning with music is a powerful educational resource that just makes sense for everyone! For additional information visit <http://www.intelli-tunes.com/> and call (877)977-0571

Stillson Works

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

Middle School Word Puzzles Submitted by Alan Stillson

Alan Stillson, the author of *Middle School Word Puzzles*, asks:

How well do you and your 8-14 year old know your sports words and terms?

1. _ _ LL O _ F _ M _
2. M _ D _ _ E L _ N _ B _ C _ E _
3. _ A _ K S _ R _ K _
4. D _ U _ L _ P _ _ _ Y

5. _ R _ E T _ R _ W

6. P _ N _ L _ Y _ IC _
7. H O _ _ _ L _ T _
8. _ O W _ R P _ A _
9. B _ B S _ E _
10. P _ R _ LL _ _ B _ R _

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS:

HALL OF FAME
MIDDLE LINEBACKER
BACKSTROKE
DOUBLE PLAY
FREE THROW
PENALTY KICK

HOME PLATE
POWER PLAY
BOBSLED
PARALLEL BARS



Middle School Word Puzzles

Middle School Word Puzzles is a great tool for you to use and has been designed for the education and enjoyment of students who read at the 5th-8th grade level

Below, are some especially good reasons to consider using Middle School Word Puzzles:

- * Wide variety of interesting and relevant topics
- * 8 1/2" by 11" pages - reproducible
- * Reasonably priced.
- * Middle School Word Puzzles is easy to order.

For additional information and to view other sample puzzles, please visit
<http://stillsonworks.com/mswp/mswp.html>

End of Part 7

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
and

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

