



## *AMC Montessori Fall/Winter 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\\_winter\\_handson.html](http://www.amonco.org/montessori_winter_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 I of the AMC Montessori Winter 2009 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter**

Make-a-Food-Mosaic

Start with the Winners Book Gift List

(A Recipe for Making the Right Match)

Collage Paste Mix and Sawdust Clay

Teaching Alternative Energy Ideas

Scribble Designs ~ Reawaken Those Imagination Sparking Moments

Masks and Mask Making

Sharing Food, Food in Art Unit Study



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**Website:** <http://www.kidzclix.net>

### **Make-a-Food-Mosaic**

Creating a food mosaic is a great activity for children of all ages. Your best food choices will be very small, hard foods such as dried beans, candies, pasta, etc.

Materials:

\*Cardboard (any size)

\*Pencil

\*Glue

\* Dried beans, M&M's, Skittles, macaroni—or whatever else you have on hand!

1. Create a simple pencil drawing. Large geometric shapes work well. Avoid tiny details as they may be hard to fill in.
2. Apply glue liberally to the area you want to fill in first, then arrange the dried foods over that area. It is best to work from the center out to the edges.
3. Be sure to combine different colors and shapes to give your mosaic an interesting look.
4. Once you have completed filling in your entire design, let it dry out completely before moving or displaying your mosaic artwork.
5. If a piece falls off after it has dried, just add more glue.

Now click on <http://activities.kidzclix.net/foodMosaic.php> and try your hand at creating a unique **Online Food Mosaic!** Here you'll have more choices for your mosaic pieces. You'll find things like cookie dough, bugs, sushi rolls—stuff you probably wouldn't want to use at home, but they sure make interesting online mosaics. Then print out your masterpiece when you're done!



## About KidzClix.net

**KidzClix.net** is an exciting online “magazine” for elementary and middle school children. Twice each month, your child receives a new issue loaded with games, puzzles, science experiments, art projects, things to build, chess tips, cooking classes, magic tricks, the amazing achievements of other children, and much more. The KidzClix.net mission to provide children with meaningful educational activities that inspire critical and creative thinking, foster originality and develop imaginations. As a KidzClix.net subscriber, your child will also have access to KidzConnect, an exclusive networking site designed with the needs and safety of children in mind. Visit <http://www.kidzclix.net> where your child can explore a **Free Issue!!!!!!!!!! Be sure to also check out the KidzClix.net special educator's discount.**

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*literatureplace.com*

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

*The following was contributed by  
Rita Arpaia Product Manager and  
Marketing Literature Resources Online LLC*

Start with the Winners Book Gift List

*A Recipe for Making the Right Match*

Between Young Readers and Books!

[www.literatureplace.com](http://www.literatureplace.com)

Ingredients:

Results from over 100 children's book awards

A young reader

A parent or adult

Tools:

The Database for Award-winning Books

Pre-school through High School

Directions:

1. Go to [literatureplace.com](http://literatureplace.com)
2. Click on the Award Winners button  
at menu bar at top of homepage.
1. Scroll down and click on the first Book finder  
search tools. (Most people choose to start with the  
category/subject search and then try the other search tools.)
1. Click on a category that interests your child.
2. You will see a list of subjects that make up  
that category.
1. Click on the subject(s) that interest your child to

see all the books that won awards. You will see a one or more lists based on grade levels.

7. At this point you can do one of the following
  - a. Print the entire page to take with you to the library or bookstore.
  - a. Preview the list of books in a particular grade level by clicking on each title to see its bookview, and make your choice(s).

1. Now make the match!

*(We hope you and your reader have a happy holiday enjoying your book choice.)*



## About *literatureplace.com*

At <http://www.literatureplace.com>, we view children's books as their windows to the world...as a place to go back to deeply and to go beyond broadly...to wander in a multitude of directions...to extend and enrich their experience...to bring the book into the reader's world. This view is the primary criteria used by our Bookfolio writers.

We invite you to visit our website where you can preview our 150 Bookfolios and access our online catalog. A print version options is also available, along with our Bookfolio collections.



# Montessori Lessons

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

## Activities Submitted by Mollie

"As fall settles in, students enjoy the changing weather as well as the changing vegetation. Here's a fun project to incorporate some of the seasonal changes:

### Collage Paste Mix:

Mix 2 teaspoons of flour with 2 teaspoons of water until mixture is smooth to create the paste. Use the paste immediately (it does not store well). Make collages using seeds, leaves, flowers, acorns, or whatever the area has to offer. Have older students write acrostic poems based on their main collage component. Have the younger students "name" their collage using their items or the fall season as inspiration.

Another interesting project using natural resources is clay pots made of **sawdust clay**. To make the clay, mix two parts sawdust with one part wheat paste. As you're mixing, slowly add water until a clay consistency is reached. Mold the clay into a small pot shape and place in the sun to dry completely. To incorporate the pots into a lesson, older children can research native americans as well as colonial American times to better understand the materials available and how they were used in everyday life.

Have great fun creating!



## *About Montessori Lessons*

**Montessori Lessons** is a valuable on-line resource for affordable nomenclature lessons and more. Whether you homeschool or not, these lessons can be used for extensions and learning opportunities at home. We welcome new ideas and value opinions of parents and teachers alike. Visit <http://www.montessorilessons.com> or contact us via e-mail at [sales@montessorilessons.com](mailto:sales@montessorilessons.com).



## *The Creative Process*

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

## *Craft Submitted by Rae*

### **Teaching Alternative Energy Ideas**

Brand new from Rae - "A familiar site in Montessori classrooms is the celebration where the birthday child walks around the "sun" holding a globe the number of times that match the child's age and stops on the month and date he or she was born.

The birthday celebration which introduces how the Earth orbits the Sun, the ideas of months and days of the month, would be an excellent time to experience baking a cake in a solar cooker."

Click below to access this unique lesson plan:

### **Teaching Alternative Energy Ideas**

<http://www.netposterworks.com/resources/curideas/alt-energy.html>

## Scribble Designs

Remember looking up at huge puffy clouds and finding a familiar face morphing into a sailing ship? Try the very simple scribble designs to reawaken those imagination sparking moments. Visit <http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/scribbles.html> and if you have youngsters around who like cartooning, the scribbles exercise can bring to life some interesting characters. All you need is a sheet of paper and a pencil and a marker set or crayons if you want to add color.

**Masks and Mask Making** Visit

<http://creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/masks.html> for details.

## Sharing Food

[http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/sharing\\_food.html](http://www.creativeprocess.net/resources/curideas/sharing_food.html)

Eating together, sharing food is the way we learn to trust on another, to form community.

Throughout history artists have illustrated how we share meals. Observing how food is shared with fellow humans will help us understand more of who we are and how our ancestors have influenced us, as well as project a possible future. Use posters and prints of people eating together to create teachable moments where ever you share meals with students.

In addition to images of meals being shared there are "recipes" for crafting with potatoes - a potato clay that is safe for little ones, and using potato prints for making greeting cards and wrapping paper



## *About the Creative Process*

Creative lesson planning just became a little easier. The Creative Process offers educators a beautiful selection of educational portrait posters, notecards and biographical bookmarks of a selected group of individuals who have made a positive, lasting impression in this world. The company's products are absolutely breathtaking.

**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!



## *End of Part 1*

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

**[http://www.amonco.org/montessori\\_winter\\_handson.html](http://www.amonco.org/montessori_winter_handson.html)**

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

**[http://www.amonco.org/montessori\\_fall\\_handson.html](http://www.amonco.org/montessori_fall_handson.html)**

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



