



AMC Montessori Fall/Winter 2009 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

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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

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 II of the AMC Montessori Fall 2009 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

The Rain Stick or Rain Maker

Pistachio Poppy Seed Cake ~ A Miami Favorite

Old Fashioned Sugar Cookie Cutouts ~ Recipe from Montessorian

The Storyboard

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Website: <http://www.thestoryboard.net>

Lesson Activity Submitted by Linda

The Rain Stick or Rain Maker

Materials

Paper towel roll

Uncooked rice, small aquarium stones, or small split peas

Straight pins

Tissue paper

White glue

Yarn

Feathers

String

Wax paper

Procedure

Take the paper towel roll and randomly place straight pins with points facing inward. Seal off one end of the roll with wax paper held in place with a rubber band. Fill with 1/8 cup cooked rice and aquarium stones and seal the other end of the tube in the same manner. Prepare white glue with some water to make a watery glue. Cut sections of multicolored tissue paper, dip in glue, and decorate outside of the tube. Let dry. Decorate with feathers, yarn, and a square of doubled tissue paper on each end.

Children can make the sound of rain with their rain sticks by slowly turning them over. The rain sounds can be enjoyed with songs, such as The Storyboard's Itsy Bitsy Spider.

About *The Storyboard*

Discover the excitement of storytelling and the power of imagination as your favorite fairy tales and nursery rhymes come alive with the Storyboard!

The Storyboard offers very high quality flannelboard stories which consist of story figures and brightly painted characters on sturdy, washable felt. Each story comes ready to use with the script printed on folders and an expandable pocket for easy storage of characters. The Storyboard case comes complete with 32 story folders, divided into six color-coded sections (Fairy Tales, Stories for Fun, Aesop's Fables, Mother Goose, Rhymes for Singing, and Happy Holidays). The complete set of 32 stories comes in a sturdy wooden box with colorful graphics. Additional stories are sold separately.

The Storyboard is a perfect medium to entertain and educate, and is guaranteed to enrich your reading program. Visit <http://www.thestoryboard.net> or contact 909-597-9761 today!!



Fun With Languages

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

Recipe Submitted by Rick

Pistachio Poppy Seed Cake--- tastes great and is a big hit here in Miami.

1- Box-(18.25oz.) of yellow cake mix - recommend super moist or plus

1- Box-(3.4oz.) of Jello-O pistachio instant pudding

1- Tablespoon of Poppy Seeds (can add more to taste)

1/4 cup of contreau orange liquor (Casis may be used instead of contreau. The liquor will cook out; it is not like a rum cake)

Pre-heat oven as instructed on cake mix box.

Combine all ingredients in a large mixing bowl. Including the pistachio instant pudding mix and liquor.

Mix with electric blender until smooth.

Spray Bundt mold or any cake mod with non-stick spray.

Pour ingredients into mold and bake as directed. This should be approximately 45 minutes at 350. Once finished let cool, then remove from cake mold. Drizzle topping of Hershey Chocolate or powdered sugar.

The family will love the green cake!!



About Fun With Languages

Fun with Languages is founded on the belief that language is the single most important gift we give our children and grandchildren. We recognize how important it is for you to nurture and encourage your child's developing language skills.

Our family of products are designed to stimulate the language and learning skills in young children by introducing two languages seamlessly. We currently have video products in English-Spanish, English-French and English-Portuguese. The wonderful classical music CD's will enlighten your child's mind by introducing them to various composers and compositions. Our book Fun with Colors is available in English-Spanish and on the web in different languages.

Parents and teachers created our products to be effective learning tools that entertain and educate. We expose your child to information about the world around them through music, art, nature, and object association all bilingually. Visit <http://www.funwithlanguages.com/testimonials.html> to read what people are saying about Fun with Languages.

You do not have to be bilingual to enjoy the program because we specifically created the program to be a teaching aid for parents and grandparents. Visit the Fun with Languages website <http://www.funwithlanguages.com/> today to discover how you can incorporate the Fun With Languages learning tools into your school and homeschool classrooms.



Cooking With Children Can Be Easy

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

Recipe Submitted by Kathy

This is a recipe I have used with toddlers (18 months) through adults (81 years). It tastes kind of like apple pie.

Old Fashioned Sugar Cookie Cutouts

..a great holiday recipe ...

The recipes in my manual do not use any refined sugar, and I teach my

grandchildren good nutrition, but the memories of baking cookies with my grandmother during the holidays are too wonderful not to share with my own grandchildren. You can now get organic shortening with no trans fats at the health food store. These are best when baked with your child, grandchild or young friend. It is fun to trace around their hand to make cookies for other relatives, even though they look like catchers' mitts after they bake.

1 cup Shortening (organic, no trans fats)
2 cups Sugar
3 Eggs (organic)
1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract (pure, not imitation)
4 cups All-purpose Unbleached Flour
1/2 teaspoon Salt
1 teaspoon Baking Powder

Extra flour and sugar for rolling out dough
White or colored sugars for decorating.

Sift together flour, salt & baking powder. Mix, return to sifter & set aside. Cream shortening and sugar, adding about 1/2 cup of the sugar at a time. Add vanilla. Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir in flour mixture about 1 cup at a time. You should have a soft, but not sticky dough. Refrigerate for a while if needed.

Use a piece of dough about the size of your fist to roll out between 2 pieces of wax paper with a rolling pin. Sprinkle the bottom layer of wax paper with flour and sugar. Put dough on it, flatten to about 1/2" with your hand and sprinkle with flour and sugar. Place other piece of wax paper over dough and roll out very thin. (The thinner the dough, the crisper the cookie.)

Cut out shapes with cookie cutters or use a large glass to cut out circles. Use a metal spatula to carefully scoop up cookies and place on baking sheets covered with foil. Decorate with white or colored sugar. Bake in 400 degree oven until golden brown - about 10 minutes. Let cool and store in airtight container. Enjoy!



About Cooking With Children Can Be Easy

The Complete System for Single Portion Recipes is already being used in over 2,500 classroom/programs in more than 47 states and 14 foreign countries.

- *Healthy and delicious child-tested recipes
- *The only book with shopping lists for each recipe
- *Set-up made easy with clear list of equipment needed for each step of every recipe
- *Picture/word direction cards for children - 134 (5" x 7") on cardstock.
- *Whole language - books and activities *Sturdily bound in 3-ring binder. **Visit <http://www.amcenterprises.net/cookingwithchildren.html> to learn more about this special cooking program and to order!!**

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Available for Workshops



End of Part 2

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

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

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

