



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

The AMC Montessori Newsletter

Published by American Montessori Consulting

Heidi Anne Spietz, Editor

2009© 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_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 IV of the AMC Montessori Fall/Winter 2009 Hands-On Creative Lesson Planning Newsletter

Scented Baskets

Tin Can Luminaries

Nutty Chocolate Pudding Squares

Montessori Math Sequencing

Dried Pineapple, Music and Faraway Places

Pineapple Unit Study

Fun Activities for Learning the Letters of the Alphabet

From Fleas to Far Kingdoms -The Power of Scientific Inquiry

(Especially for Middle Schoolers)

Fall Squirrel

Papier-Mâché Art Activity

Animals in the Winter Unit Study

Free Hands-On Algebra Activity

Coaching for Learning-Success TM

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

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

Recipe Submitted by Mariaemma

Scented Baskets

This is a craft you can do for your own home or it makes a great gift! Because the holidays are coming up, we are using cinnamon oil. This scent reminds us of the great smells coming out of mom's or grandma's kitchen during holiday baking time. However, these baskets are great any time of year, and you can experiment with other scents.

You will need:

Basket (from very small to very large - it's your choice!)

Pine Cones (the number and sizes depend on size of basket)

Cinnamon Oil (available in most craft stores)

Resealable Plastic Bag or Trash Bag (big enough to put all the pine cones into)

Twist Tie or String (if bag is not resealable)

1. Find a basket you would like to use and figure out how many pine cones you need to fill it up. You can mix smaller and larger sizes or use all one size. Pine cones come in all sizes - from very small to very large.
2. Put 1 or 2 drops of oil on each pine cone, placing the dropper close to an opening so that the oil dribbles into the center crevices.
3. Put the pine cones in the plastic bag. Add a few more drops of cinnamon oil. If it is not the resealable type, gather the top of the bag and tie it tightly.

4. Put the bag in a safe place and wait at least 24 hours.
5. Take the pine cones out, arrange them in the basket any way you'd like, and decide where to place the basket. It will fill the room up with the wonderful scent of cinnamon!
6. Options: You can add other decorative touches to the basket: ribbon, bows, wrapping, etc. Keep it simple or be as creative as you'd like!

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>

Conceptual Learning

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

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

Recipe Submitted by Dianne

Nutty Chocolate Pudding Squares

Nutty Chocolate Pudding Squares

Ingredients:

Cinnamon graham cracker squares

Instant chocolate pudding

Milk

Small package of chopped nuts (peanuts, walnuts, or pecans)

Procedure:

Prepare a package of instant chocolate pudding according to directions.

Stir all but a few of the chopped nuts into the prepared pudding.

Cover the bottom of a 9-inch square baking dish with 9 cinnamon graham cracker squares.

Pour half of the pudding mixture over the graham crackers and spread evenly.

Add another layer of graham crackers.

Spread the remaining pudding mixture on top.

Sprinkle the remaining nuts on top.

Chill at least an hour.

Cut into 3 inch squares and serve.

Math Sequencing

Submitted by

Conceptual Learning Materials

<http://www.conceptuallearning.com>

281-488-3252

Numeration is the basis for all math concepts. An important aspect of that understanding is the ability to sequence numbers from least to greatest. Exercises are very easy to make.

Preparation

Place a sheet of cardstock or heavy-weight paper in "landscape position."

Divide paper into 24 small rectangles (six sections across, and four sections down).

Label first row with a small letter "A" in the lower right-hand corner of each rectangle.

In the same manner, label the second row of six with the letter "B", the third row with "C", and the fourth row with a "D".

Using a fine marker, write a sequence of numbers in each row.

Cut out all the rectangles, and place them in a container such as a hardware drawer, envelope, or small zip-lock bag.

Exercise

Sort the rectangles by letter. The A's will be in one pile, the B's in another, and so on.

Spread out the cards in the "A" group so all numbers are visible.

Sequence the cards in order from least to greatest.

Below the "A" sequence, repeat the process with the "B" cards.

Sequence the "C" and "D" cards in the same way.

Types of sequences

A variety of sequences can be devised. These include one-digit, two-digit, three-digit, four digit, six-digit, odd, even, multiples, fractions, decimals, and integers.

Samples

Visit

http://www.amonco.org/four_digit_order.pdf

http://www.amonco.org/fraction_order.pdf

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

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

for the PDF files with instructions as well as specific exercises in four-digit, fraction, decimal, and integer sequences. Merely place cardstock or heavy-weight paper in your printer to generate the exercises. Many additional exercises are available for purchase.



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!



Cantemos

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

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

Pineapple Unit Study Submitted by Georgette

Dried Pineapple, Music and Faraway Places

The name pineapple in English comes from the similarity of the fruit to a pine cone. Show a pine cone and a pineapple and ask children to point out the similarities and then the differences.

RECIPE: To make dried pineapple fruit

Wash fruit and cut into thin slices or use a can of sliced pineapple or pineapple in chunks.

Lay fruit on a parchment covered cooking sheet. Fruit slices should not touch each other.

Place tray of fruit in oven. Turn oven on very low setting (150-200 degrees). You only want to dry the fruit, not to cook it. The drying process will take several

hours; do not try to increase heat to speed up drying process. Remove from oven when fruit is sufficiently dehydrated. Fruit should be chewy, not crunchy or squishy.

If you can borrow a fruit dehydrating machine children can see how the fruit is placed and watch it dry slowly throughout the day.

GEOGRAPHY

Show children where pineapples came from originally and point out different places where it was/is grown. Pineapple is native to the southern part of Brazil and Paraguay. See <http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pineapple> and scroll down until you see *History* to learn more about the history of the pineapple.

MUSIC

Sing a song in Spanish or Portuguese. For a selection of songs log on to <http://www.simplespanishsongs.com>



About Cantemos

Gift Giving Idea ~ CANTEMOS CHIQUITOS #2

CANTEMOS CHIQUITOS #2 includes **Christmas songs** in both English and Spanish. Songs include: Silent Night, Cantemos, Gloria, Noche Buena, Jingle Bells, fingerplays to teach vowels, colors, counting, numbers and La Cucaracha are included as well. The cassette and book make a great stocking filler. Visit <http://www.cantemosco.com> to learn about CANTEMOS CHIQUITOS and additional gift giving ideas and year round educational products.



Creative Care

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

Website: <http://CreativeCare.netfirms.com/>

Craft Submitted by Jaye

Fall Squirrel

Make a cut out of a large squirrel from brown construction paper and glue to a yellow piece of construction paper for the background. Glue a little brown or black pom pom where his nose is and a googly eye above it where the eye belongs.

Draw a little mouth with a black marker. To create the squirrel's tail cut a piece of sponge in the shape of a circle. Wet the sponge and wring out excess water. Pour some brown tempera paint onto a paper plate and have the children dip the sponge in the paint and "print" a furry tail onto the paper behind the cut out squirrel. Lastly glue a shelled peanut in his paw area.



About Creative Care

Visit <http://CreativeCare.netfirms.com> to see some of the products available. Many daycare educators find the Creative Care product line to be a lifesaver. With the holidays upcoming, the Creative Care packs can make this season both fun for you and your students.

The craft packs teach simple concepts to the children while they are having fun as well as building self-esteem and pride in their accomplishments. Twelve new ideas are offered each month and they revolve around the holidays, seasons, and preschool learning activities. There is a color, letter and number introduced monthly. The crafts are a business booster for the day care home showing concrete evidence of the quality care provided.

Shari and Jerry

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

Website: <http://shariandjerry.com>

Papier-Mâché Activity Submitted by Shari

Papier-Mâché means *Chewed Paper* in French and refers to the process of building up layers of paper that has been torn, wadded, and moulded to make a three-dimensional object. Paper is dipped in a paste or adhesive mixture. Newspaper that has been torn in strips and soaked overnight will be more pliable. Squeeze out excess water before using the paper.

Papier-Mâché - paste (cooked)

3 cups water

1 2 cups flour

Oil of peppermint

Stir flour into cold water. Cook over low heat until mixture thickens and becomes a creamy paste. Add more water if is too thick. Cool. Add a few drops of peppermint oil. Use this paste to coat strips of paper.

You can also mix white glue in water to use as a paste if you do not want to cook the recipe.

There is ample evidence that music helps students develop the attitudes, characteristics and intellectual skills required to participate effectively in today's society and economy. The arts teach self-discipline, reinforce self-esteem and foster the thinking skills and creativity so valued in the workplace such as teamwork and cooperation. (Schirmacher 1991)

About Shari and Jerry

Encourage your child to sing and imagine, act out stories, pretend to be animals. Using music and songs on our Shari and Jerry's Speak and Sing CD will help develop creative movement, speech, and the patterns needed for reading and math!

Memory is another area that is affected positively as the planning and implementation of thematic roles through stories or fantasy play helps memory and creates a foundation for later use of memory strategies (Berk & Winsler, 1995). Children who use this type of play have been found to have higher I.Q. scores.

Socio-dramatic play is an excellent way of promoting cooperative play. Studies have found that children, who engage in this socio-dramatic play, regularly are more friendly, popular, cooperative, verbal and creative, usually less impulsive and aggressive and more likely to take the perspective of others (Fein & Kinney, 1994)

Shari and Jerry Tallon are International Children's Recording Artists, Producers of Winning Resources, Music Educators and Performers.

Shari and Jerry have produced another winning resource (CD and Book) for Early Childhood Educators, ESL Teachers, Children's Librarians, Teachers and Parents of toddlers, preschoolers, Kindergarten and Grade One.

Clear and simple productions with original action songs, tons of participation, diverse musical styles of folk, rock, and blues, nursery rhymes, and interactive tracks where the children can suggest their own actions to do, play, speak and sing! Some of the songs include Wheels on The Bus, There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, Tommy Thumb, Listen to the Beat, Ride in A Car, I Can Hop, Be a Frog, and much more.

SPEAK AND SING CONTAINS:

- Action Songs and Participation!
- Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes

- Sing-a-longs
- Open-ended Activity Songs!
- Finger plays
- Rhythm and Percussion Songs and Activities!
- Creative Activities with Puppets/Puppet Patterns
- Reproducible Art and Writing Activity Pages
- ESL Resource
- Developmental Benefits
- Lyrics and easy-to-follow instructions

"Many studies done in the 1980's have proven that rhymes contribute directly to the understanding of language and the emerging children's vocabulary.

"Poetry and music can be used to encourage children's creative movement!"

We have many other Resources:

Dances and Action Songs

The Early Years Collection No.1

Simple Songs for Circle Time

Sing and Play Everyday (piano songbook)

The Dinosaur Rock Play (script)

To place an order please visit <http://www.shariandjerry.com>. Contact us at (613)479-2293 or email info@musicresources.org

Please also visit <http://www.musicresources.org> and <http://www.shariandjerry.com>



American Montessori Consulting

Copyright 2009

All Rights Reserved.

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

Winter Animal Unit Study by Heidi Anne Spietz

Animals in the Winter

Visit <http://www.amonco.org/animalsinthewinter.html> to access links for a complete unit study on Animals in the Winter. These PreK and K-8 links will lead you to articles, hands-on activities and other exercises that are compatible with the Montessori classified reading cards, phonics, grammar, creative writing, science, social studies and other extensive lesson plans.

What happens to animals as it becomes cold outside?

Animals in Winter - Explains hibernation, migration and adaptation.

Animals in Winter Scavenger Hunt

How Animals Survive the Winter

How do animals prepare for winter?

Animal Winter Months Study

Animals in Winter

Why do birds fly south in the winter?

Why Do Birds Fly South for the Winter

When and How do Birds Migrate?

What is hibernation?

Hibernation

Monthly Themes for Toddlers & Preschoolers

Animals Themes

Mrs. Jones - Hibernation

Groundhogs Day - Waking Up from Hibernation
Mammals Middle School - Lessons for Middle School Students

How do bears and badgers spend the winter?

Wildlife in Winter
How Do Animals Spend the Winter
Winter

How does the color white help animals in the wintertime?

Arctic Animals of Alaska
More About Camouflage

Where do the insects go in the winter?

Where do all the Insects go in the Winter?
Topics in Insect Ecology

How do fish survive in the winter?

Shunipiking Online Vol 02 No 02
Power to Learn: Winter Wonderings

How can you help birds in the winter?

Birds Winter
Education World Lesson Planning, Celebrate Winter!
FundingFactory Lesson Plans
Attracting Birds in Winter
How to Help Garden Birds Survive the Winter Months?

Let's Write, Discuss and Talk About Animals in the Winter

Animals in Winter
Hibernation Background Information and Activities
Grades K - 8 - Winter
Write Your Own Books - For K - 3rd Grade(Part I)
Write Your Own Books - For K - 3rd Grade (Part II)

Visit American Montessori Consulting <http://www.amonco.org> and look under New and Notable for other unit studies. Copyright 2007-2009 American Montessori Consulting



Hands-On Equations®

Submitted by Dr, Borenson and Associates, Inc.

1. What is the value of “x” and star that will solve this example?

$$3(2x + 1) + x = 4x + 12$$

Hint: x and star are opposites and their sum is zero.

2. When one-third of a number is increased by 2, then doubled, and then increased by the number itself, the result is 28 more than two-thirds of the original number. Find the number. Hint: Use three blue pawns to represent the original number.

To provide your child, grade 3-8, with an interesting hands-on mathematical learning experience with basic algebraic concepts (which would make it easier for him/her to solve the above problems), look into HANDS-ON EQUATIONS® developed by Dr. Henry Borenson. The website <http://www.borenson.com> also lists the Making Algebra Child’s Play® workshops scheduled nationwide!

End of Part 4

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.

