



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

Handprint Towel - Unique Craft and Gift
Pumpkin Pie Scented Playdough Recipe
Recipe for World Tolerance
Holiday Cheesecake



FunFelt

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

Crafts Submitted by Karen Clark

Handprint Towel



We made these cute handprint towels as Christmas gifts for the grandparents. Just get some fabric paint (I used DecoArt “So Soft” fabric paint) and paint it on the child’s hand then press down on a tea towel. We got our towels at the dollar store but you can do it on flour sack type towels too, which I get at the department store. These towels are great for drying glass! Then take a fabric marker and write the child’s name and the year on the bottom of the towel. We had each child make their own, and are giving the grandmas a bundle of all 3. The bigger kids just put one hand in the corner and my little one did both hands. Teachers can make these inexpensively as a class for the students to give parents as well.

We included this poem with the towel:

I know you sometimes wipe them away,
But these handprints are here to stay!
So keep them forever. A treasure they’ll be,
A special “I love you!” for you, from me!

Pumpkin Pie Scented Playdough Recipe

Ingredients

5 1/2 cups of flour
2 cups of salt
8 teaspoons cream of tartar
3/4 cup vegetable oil
1 container (1 1/12 ounces) pumpkin pie spice
Orange food coloring (mix 2 parts yellow with 1 part red)
4 cups water

Directions:

Mix all of the ingredients together. Cook and stir over medium heat until it is no longer lumpy. Knead the dough on a floured surface until it is smooth. Store in an airtight container. Let the kids use cookie cutters, small foil pie tins, and other cooking tools to 'bake pumpkin pie' for the holidays!

106 Inexpensive, Quick & Easy Holiday Gifts

The author of this submission is unknown, and has been submitted by Karen Clark of FunFelt.com - Story Time Felts <http://www.funfelt.com>

Use these ideas to celebrate the holiday season. These are great for neighbors, children's teachers, coworkers and friends! Taking a simple object and adding a cute saying makes it precious!

1. Apples and Hershey's Hugs - A teacher can't live by apples alone... she needs "Hugs" too!!
2. Apple Pie of Apple Crisp - "Wishing you a Scrumptious Christmas!"
3. Apple Anything - (Pie, Cobbler, crisp, muffins etc.) "Sending you a 'Bushel' of love this holiday season!!". Or, "You are the apple of my eye, Teacher!"
4. Bananas - "If we could choose our friends, and we searched the whole world through, we'd go bananas trying to find a better bunch than you!!"
5. Loaf of Bread - "For being there when you were 'kneaded', for

'rising' to the occasion, large or small. For never 'loafing' on the job, for helping others to 'heel' with TLC. No matter how you 'slice it', you do a terrific job loving others. Merry Christmas!!"

6. Homemade frozen bread or rolls - "Here's a little holiday treat. Rise and bake, it can't be beat! Warm fresh rolls just for you. Top with butter.... that's all you do! Warm holiday greetings to you!"

7. Banana bread - "Banana bread just for you, because you have so much to do. We also love you a whole 'Bunch' too! Merry Christmas!"

8. Basket of berries - "Wishing you a Berry Merry Christmas!"

9. Brownie Mix - (Or any Mix) "Whip up this mix for a wonderful holiday fix! Wishing you a 'rich' Holiday Season!!"

10. Warm Casserole or Bread - "Bundled up with warm wishes!!"

11. Cinnamon Rolls - "Here's a sweet treat 'rolled' up with warm holiday wishes! Merry Christmas!"

12. Chocolates - "You're so Sweet... having you as neighbors is really a treat! Have a heavenly holiday season!"

13. Cake or Cupcakes - "You take the 'Cake' neighbor. We think you're first rate! Happy Holidays to you!!" or "When it comes to great friends, you take the cake!"

14. Cheese Ball and Crackers - "We don't mean to sound "cheesy".... we just hope you have a "ball" this holiday season!" or "Spread a little Christmas cheer this Holiday Season!"

15. Cornbread or Mix - "We're not trying to be 'corny'... we just want you to have Merry Christmas!"

16. Carrot Cake - " I really 'carrot' a lot about you!! Merry Christmas"

17. Chex Party Mix - Remember Santa "Chex" his list twice to see who's been naughty or nice... so be good for goodness sake!! Merry Christmas!!

18. Cocoa Mix - "Wishing you a warm and wonderful Christmas!"
19. Cookie Sprinkles or cinnamon & sugar in a shaker- "May your Christmas be sprinkled with laughter and love! Merry Christmas!"
20. Cookie dough - "Here's a little extra 'dough' for Christmas!" or "Everyone can use a little extra 'dough' at Christmas!!"
21. Dairy Queen Blizzard- "Hoping your Holidays are a 'Blizzard' of fun!"
22. Decadent dessert - "Hoping you have a 'rich' and 'wonderful' holiday!!"
23. Donuts - "Donut you know we love you??? Have a happy holiday!!"
24. Eggnog - "Have an 'Udderly Moovalous' Christmas!!"
25. Fruit Basket - "May your New Year be festive and fruitful!!"
26. Fudge - "'Fudge' a little on the calories and enjoy the holiday season!"
27. Gingerbread House - "Nibble, Nibble like a mouse, we hope you'll nibble at this house! Merry Christmas!!"
28. Gum - "By Gum, you're a great neighbor!!. Have a Merry Christmas"
29. Bear shaped Honey - "Have a Beary Sweet Christmas!!"
30. Hershey's Hugs - "A friend always knows when you need a little hug!" or "A holiday hug for you! Merry Christmas!"
31. Hershey's Hugs and Kisses - "Christmas Hugs and Kisses to You" Or "Holiday Hugs and Kisses to you!"
32. Box of Hostess Ho-Ho's - Hope a merry "HO - HO - H0" fills your heart the whole year through!" (Put a santa sticker on the label.)
33. Ice Cream Yule Log- "Have a 'Cool' Yule!!"
34. Ice cream & scoop- "Here's the Scoop!.... You're the coolest family we know! Merry Christmas!"

35. Ice Cream Snowballs and Hot Fudge - "Here's some packaged 'snowball' treats. Just drizzle hot fudge and its ready to eat! Enjoy!!"
36. Jar of Jelly - "Jelly is like love - you can't spread it around without getting some on yourself! Merry Christmas!!"
37. Jar of Jam - "Hoping you have a holiday 'jam-packed' with fun!!" or "Jam-packed' with Christmas Cheer!!"
38. Jolly Ranchers - "Have a holly 'jolly' Christmas!!"
39. Lifesavers - "You've been a lifesaver!" Have a great Christmas!"
40. M&M's - "Have a Merry and Most wonderful holiday season!!"
41. Mints - "Friends like you are worth a Mint!!" Merry Christmas!!"
42. Muffins or Muffin mix - " You're getting "Muffin" for Christmas!!"
43. Chocolate Mousse Mix - "'Merry Christmousse' to our 'Deer' Friends!"
44. Nuts - "We're 'nuts' about you! Merry Christmas!"
45. Oranges - "'Orange' you glad we're friends!?" Merry Christmas!!
46. Chocolate Orange - "'Orange' you glad it's Christmas? Hope your Christmas is a sweet one!"
47. Pasta & sauce - "Have a Pasta-tively happy holiday!"
48. Jar of pickles - "Just in brine, our wish for a merry Christmas!!"
49. Pizza or pizza coupons - "Hope your holiday has a touch of 'Pizza - z!!' Merry Christmas!!"
50. Pizza (Frozen or ready to bake) - "Warm up to a wonderful holiday season topped with Christmas cheer!"
51. Popcorn balls - "Hoping you have a 'Ball' this Holiday Season!"

52. Popcorn or Caramel Corn - "Just 'popping' by with a holiday Hi!"
Or "May your holidays be Poppin!"
53. Pie - "Just a 'Holiday Hi' and a tasty pie!! Happy Holidays!!"
54. Rice Krispie Treats - "'Snap, Crackle, Pop' We think you're really Tops!"
55. Root beer - "We're 'Root' ing for you to have a Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!!"
56. Seasoning Mix - "Seasoned with Love... Merry Christmas!!"
57. Spiced Drink Mixes - "Hoping your Holidays are 'Spiced' just right!"
58. Spearmint gum- "Being with you is so refreshing. Merry Christmas, friend!"
59. Salsa - "Add a little Spice to your Holidays! Merry Christmas!"
60. Soup or soup mix - "Wishing you a 'souper' Holiday Season!!"
61. Sprite - "May your Christmas be Merry and Sprite!"
62. Shaped Sugar Cookies - "Rolling out a batch of Christmas cheer, for someone we think is very dear!!"
63. Sparkling Cider - "Wishing you a Sparkling Holiday Season!"
64. Any Sweet Treat - "Wishing you a season filled with sweetness!"
65. Toffee or Brittle - "Any way you break it, we think you're the greatest!"
66. Veggies and Dip - "Dip into a wonderful holiday season and a Healthy New Year!"
67. Bottle of wine- "Just a little Christmas Cheer from happy hearts this time of year!! Merry Christmas!!"
68. Mugs with Hot Chocolate Mix - "To our special friends who are so dear, we wish you all a cup of Cheer!"

69. Recipe - "Just like you friend, it's tried and true, a favorite recipe just for you! Happy holiday baking" or "Merry Christmas cooking!"
70. Stocking or filled jar - "Have a fun filled Christmas this year!"
71. Basket filled with small gifts- "A basket of blessings to you this Christmas." or "Wishing you a basket full of Christmas blessings."
72. Christmas music... CD or Tape - "May the sweet song of Christmas make your heart rejoice!" or "May the merry sounds of Christmas bring a Joyful Melody to your holiday season. Merry Christmas!!"
73. Holly - "Happy Hollydays!"
74. Santa - "Ho-Ho-Hoping your Christmas is Heavenly!"
75. Angel - "Hoping you have a heavenly Christmas!!"
76. Heart Christmas Ornament - "May the Joy and Love you give away, come back to you on Christmas day!"
77. Any Star Ornament or item with Stars on it - "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, God has placed you where you are. I'm so glad He placed you in my life. Merry Christmas!"
78. Christmas Tray - "We 'Tray'sure your friendship! Merry Christmas!!"
79. Bell - "With each chime of this festive bell, may a Christmas wish come true. And bring you peace and happiness to last the whole year through! Merry Christmas!"
80. Yule Log - "Sending you warm greetings this Christmas Season!!"
81. Potpourri - "May this sweet scent bring back thoughts of warm Christmas memories!"
82. Calendar - "Keep Christmas in your heart the whole year through!"
83. Bubble Gum or Bubble Bath - "May your holidays 'bubble' over with fun!!"

84. Pencil and notepad - "Merry Christmas from our pad to yours!!"
85. Note paper - "Merry Christmas to a 'noteworthy' friend!"
86. Fireplace Matches - "No one matches you as neighbors! Merry Christmas!"
87. Box of Light Bulbs - "Have a bright and radiant Christmas!"
88. Candle - "You Light up my Life!" or, "Thanks for your friendship! May your Christmas be Merry and Bright!"
89. Candle - "May your days be happy, your heart be light, your Christmas merry and the New Year Bright!!"
90. Stuffed animal or Beanie Baby- "'Pawsing' to wish you a Merry Christmas!"
91. Lamb - "Have 'eweself' a merry little Christmas!!"
92. Crayons and Coloring Book - "Hope your Holidays are Colorful!"
93. Plant - "The kindness you show makes our friendship grow and grow! Hope you have a Happy Holiday!!"
94. Cleaners - "You add sparkle and make my life brighter! Merry Christmas!"
95. Broom - "You're 'dust' the finest neighbors we know! Merry Christmas!"
96. A juice pitcher filled with candy canes- "We pitcher you raising a little 'cane' during the holidays! Have a merry Christmas!!"
97. Paper towels or napkins - "Here's a gift to help you absorb the Christmas Spirit!"
98. Measuring Cup or Glass Measure - "Wishing you joy beyond measure this Christmas!"
99. Wire whisk filled with chocolate kisses- "We WHISK you a Merry KISSmas!!"
100. Wooden spoon - "Whether stirring up cakes, cookies, soups or

soufflés; You'll find this spoon useful in so many ways. But whatever it's use, it says, 'Merry Merry Christmas from us to you!'"

101. Eggbeater - "Have an 'Eggstra' Special Holiday!!"

102. Strainer - (With a christmas bow) "We couldn't restrain ourselves from wishing you a very Merry Christmas!!"

103. Grater and Cheese - "To a grate neighbor! Merry Christmas!"

104. Flowers - "If friends were flowers, I'd pick you! Happy Holidays!! or "You make friendship bloom all year round! Happy New Year!"

105. Calculator (wallet-sized)- "Thanks for being someone I can always count on. Merry Christmas!"

106. Welcome sign- "Thanks for making me feel so welcome in your home. Merry Christmas!"



About Funfelt

Story Time Felts, Fun Felt for Kids has several new products for 2009! Story Time Felts (formerly Story Time Felts) has been offering high quality and unique educational felt products to parents and teachers for over 20 years. We feature felt board learning sets for science, social studies, and math, as well as our exclusive Stories from Around the World flannel board figures. As always, we invite you to subscribe to our monthly newsletter chock full of thematic teaching ideas for hands-on learning in the home or classroom. To subscribe please visit

<http://www.funfelt.com>

Story Time Felts actively encourages togetherness - We know that children learn best through interaction with adults and peers. Making this playdough as a family, or with the teacher, is one way to build a feeling of teamwork and accomplishment together. It can be played with many times throughout the season.

The main way we at Story Time Felts encourage togetherness is through the

power of storytelling. Six favorite tales are now available in our exclusive felt figures. Figures to tell the following stories are made from the highest quality thick, washable, durable felt, that will last for years, and is only available through Story Time Felts:

- * Figures to Tell Rainbow Fish
- * Figures to Tell Love You Forever
- * Figures to Tell Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?
- * Figures to Tell The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- * Scripture Story: Jonah and the Whale
- * Scripture Story: Crucifixion and Resurrection

Karen Clark - Fun Felt for Kids Independent Story Teller Director
<http://www.funfelt.com>



Nation Relation

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Website: <http://winid.com/nationrelation>

(Note: The creator of Nation Relation is making a pledge to help the children of the Congo nation, (a country that is included in her game). She will donate \$3.00 for every game she sells between now and June 1st, 2010 to the GOD'S CHILD PROJECT. (This charity cares for and educates orphaned, abandoned children; it is based in Bismarck, ND.) She has been observing in the news about the drastic suffering of the people of the Congo and wants us to help in relief efforts.

Creator of Nation Relation, Joan McGivney believes that children need to learn about other cultures and people of the world. That is the way they grow to appreciate and respect different cultures.

Recipe for World Tolerance

1 c. respect for others

1 c. understanding

1/2 c. laughter

1 tablespoon smiles

2 c. willingness to learn about others
features

1 c. knowledge about geographic

1 c. knowledge of historical perspective

2 c. forgiveness

Mix all with sincere desire to live in this world with all people. Extract all vengeance and greed. Sprinkle in patience. Blend well with the appreciation that diversity and tolerance aids in making better world for all.

About Nation Relation

SPECIAL OFFER: We really want children to learn about the world and our world's people. The only way we can give peace a chance is to start with our children and teach them understanding and tolerance of others. **Nation Relation** (Award-winning memory game/educational tool) is now available for \$11.00 (more economical) in a zip lock bag with a Nation Relation label.

You can also have the directions and stories in Spanish at no additional charge. \$11 (Note: Nation Relation is also available in the original plastic box for \$14.)

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Childsake

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Recipe Submitted by Ligia

Holiday Cheesecake

Graham Cracker Crust:

1 3/4 cups crushed graham crackers

4 tablespoons butter, melted

Graham Cracker Crust:

Cheesecake Filling:

4 cups cream cheese

1 cup sugar

1 1/4 cups whipping/heavy cream

1 cup raspberries or strawberries

Mix graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Press crumb mixture into base of pan (8-inch springform pan) and refrigerate until firm.

Beat sugar and cream cheese until blended. Whip heavy cream. Fold in whipped cream and then fold in the berries. Spoon mixture into pan. Refrigerate overnight.

Be creative and decorate with berries and a little powdered sugar for a winter holiday winter cake or use blueberries and strawberries for an American motif.



About Childsake

Visit <http://www.childsake.com> to locate valuable resources and a wide selection of children's book. HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CHILDSAKE!

End of Part 5

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

