

CIRCLE TIME IDEAS

~MAY~



April showers bring May flowers! The weather is finally getting warmer, birds are singing, and flowers are blooming.

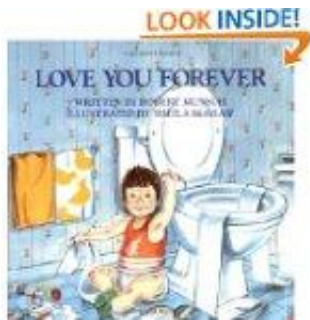
May 12th is Mother's Day! Mother's Day is a day to honor and thank mothers, grandmothers, and just-like-a-mom women in your circle of family and friends for all that they do in raising children. Let your children celebrate this Mother's Day with some special cards, crafts, gift ideas, and activities.

SONGS & RHYMES

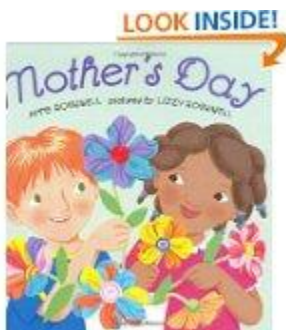
<p>For My Mother I've brought you some flowers For a very special day They are just for you, Mom! On Mother's Day</p> <p>I must have been born Beneath a lucky star To have a mother As nice as you are!</p>	<p>I Love Mommy (Tune: Frere Jacques)</p> <p>I love Mommy, I love Mommy Yes, I do; Yes I do And my Mommy loves me, Yes, my Mommy loves me, Loves me too, loves me too.</p>
<p>I Love My Mommy (Tune: Upon the Housetop)</p> <p>I love my mommy, yessiree! She is very good to me! She makes me cookies and yummy treats That's my mom and she's real neat! Oh, oh, oh, who wouldn't know? Oh, oh, oh, who wouldn't know? I love my mommy and she loves me That's the way it's supposed to be!</p>	<p>Dear Mother Dear mother your love is special I cannot help but show. Like flowers in a garden Your love makes me grow.</p>



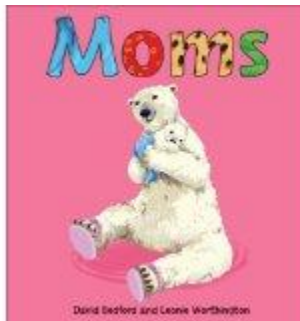
BOOK SUGGESTIONS



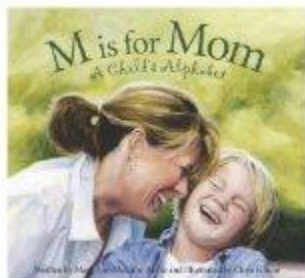
Love You Forever
By Robert Munsch



Mother's Day
By Anne Rockwell



Moms
By David Bedford and Leonie
Worthington



M is for Mom - A Child's Alphabet
By Mary Ann McCabe Reihle

SNACK IDEAS

Mother's Day Tea Party

In celebration of mothers—and all the special women in your life—host a tea party! Cover a table or space on the floor with a nice table cloth. Decorate with silk flowers. Here are some simple beverages and foods ideas for a tea party:

- A few assorted teas
- Milk, sugar, lemon, and honey (for tea)
- Lemonade
- Fresh scones or muffins
- English muffins, croissants or biscuits
- Butter and/or an assortment of delicious jams
- Small pastries, tarts or cakes

Fruit Salad Flowers

Cut oranges and apples into thin slices, slice bananas, cut celery into long strips, and cut green grapes in half. Give children large plates and show them how to arrange fruit to build a flower:

- apple and orange slice for petals
- banana slice for centers
- celery for stem
- green grape halves for leaves

Then give them a few sunflower seeds to put in the center of their flower.

ARTS & CRAFTS IDEAS

Note: Best practice is to allow children to express their own creativity without using patterns.

Small Hand/Big Hand

Help show children the difference between small and big. Have children place their handprint (traced or painted) on a heart-shaped construction paper. Then, have their mothers put their own handprint next to their child's. Children can give this to their moms as a little Mother's Day gift.

Supplies needed:

- **Red Construction Paper**
- **Crayons, Markers or**
- **Non-toxic washable finger paint**

You Make My Heart Smile

Trace and cut a big flower pattern out of red construction paper. Glue a CD shiny side up in the middle of red flower. Out of pink and white paper, trace and cut as many big and small hearts as desired. Glue hearts around the CD. Cut heart with text "You make my heart smile" out of white craft paper and glue it in the center of CD. Cut red heart out of red craft paper. (CD should be still showing around red circle).

With a marker, draw eyes and a smile below the text.

Supplies needed:

- **Red, White & Pink Construction Paper**
- **Various sized Heart Shaped Foam Craft Paper**
- **Markers**
- **Old CDs**
- **Glue**
- **Fine Tipped Marker for writing**

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Activity #1: Who's the Mom?

Collect pictures of mother and baby animals. For durability, cover each picture with clear contact paper or laminate. Allow children to match the mother animals to the baby animals.

Activity #2: Mother's Day Concentration Game

Using the same pictures as in the activity above, place mother and baby animal pictures face down on a table or the floor. Have 2–4 children take turns matching the mothers to their babies. If a child matches a pair, he/she takes the pictures. If the match is incorrect, the pictures are turned face down again.

Children continue until all the mothers and babies are paired

Activity #3: Mother Says

Take turns with your child playing "Mother Says" (instead of "Simon Says"). Start by giving directions for your child to follow, such as "Mother says wave your hands. Mother says touch your nose. Mother says hop on one foot." Explain that whenever you give a direction without first saying "Mother says," your child should not do the action. If he/she does, then have him/her trade places with you and start giving you the directions. Continue the game as long as you wish.

Activity #4: Flower Sniff Game

Show children a selection of flowers that have different fragrances. Let them smell each flower and make a chart of their favorite flower smell.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Discussion #1: Outings

GUIDELINE

Parents are responsible for their own children.

A first-aid kit and a cell phone should accompany you on all outings.

BEST PRACTICE

Ensure outings are developmentally appropriate and in the best interest of children's health, safety and well-being.

Identify and evaluate the goals and objectives of field trips to ensure the experiences benefit the children.

Programs provide a higher ratio of adults to children to ensure children are adequately supervised on outings.

Programs ensure appropriate methods of transportation are used.

Counts of children are conducted frequently:

- before leaving
- upon arrival
- several times during the outing
- before returning
- before exiting transportation (ex: bus)

