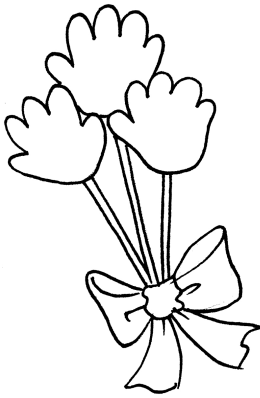


Handprint Art

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Physical, Cognitive

What You Need:



- Paper or thin cardboard
- Pencil
- Blunt, child-sized scissors
- Regular scissors (for adult use only)
- Jumbo crayons or washable markers
- Masking tape
- Straw or disposable chopstick
- Paper plate
- Ribbons or string (optional)

What To Do:

Handprint Flowers:

1. Trace your child's hand several times on various sheets of paper, or show her how to trace her hand and have her do it.
2. Invite her to color the handprints.
3. Show your child how to cut out the handprints with scissors and have her cut them. Provide help and guidance as needed.
4. Tape each handprint to a plastic straw or disposable chopstick to make a "flower."
5. Show your child how to draw and cut out leaf shapes. Have her make a few and tape them onto the middle area of each straw or chopstick with a flower on it.
6. Ask her to name some people who are special to her. Have her choose one



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person to give her special bouquet of flowers.

7. Discuss with her why that person is special to her. Write one reason on each handprint.

8. Set up a time she can deliver her special handmade bouquet.

Handprint Wreath:

1. Draw and cut out a large circle on a piece of cardboard and cut out a smaller circle in the middle of the large circle (or use a paper plate with the center cut out) to form a base for a wreath.

2. Have your child make and cut out several handprints on different colored paper.

3. Show her how to glue her handprints around the circle, overlapping them and alternating colors, to make the wreath.

4. Ask her to describe the pattern she is using to create her wreath.

5. Hang up the finished wreath as a wall or door decoration.

Handprint Creatures:

1. Have her cut out a handprint and glue it on a blank sheet of paper. (Or do several to make a collage.)

2. Encourage your child to create a face, an animal or whatever she wants with her handprints. Suggest that she add eyes, a nose, a mouth or different body parts to the handprint. (For example, she can make a turkey by adding facial features to her thumb, legs to the bottom of the palm, and having her fingers represent feathers.) Ask your child to tell you about her picture.

! Safety Alert: Adult-size scissors are not safe for young preschoolers. Let your child practice cutting with blunt, child-sized scissors. Monitor your child as she uses the scissors. If you do not have appropriate scissors or the paper is too thick for your child to cut, do the cutting yourself. Discuss the dangers of moving around with a pair of scissors in hand.

