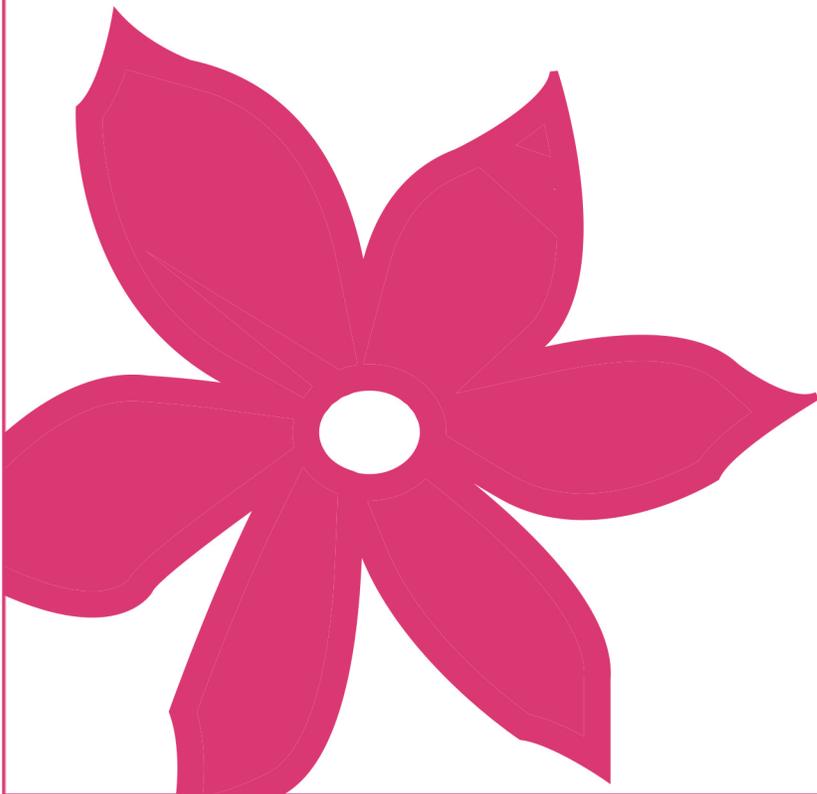


SPRING FUN



CRAFTS,
ACTIVITIES
& FUN
FOR FAMILIES

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About

Springtime is here!

Whether you regularly do a lot of crafts and activities with your kids or are just looking for some inspiration to celebrate the season, Allie from [No Time for Flash Cards](#) and I have compiled more than 25 activities here for a variety of ages from more than 15 different craft and education bloggers.

We're confident this is an ebook you can refer back to time and time again for ideas and crafts, and we hope you'll discover some new favorite bloggers along the way as well!

Enjoy!

Mandi

[Life...Your Way](#)

spring



rainy day activities

Cupcake Matching/Memory Game

Stephanie is a stay-at-home mom to two adorable kiddos. She shares her crafty momma projects, kid crafts and learning activities on her blog, [Playing House](#).

Originally posted on [Playing House](#).



Supplies:

- 2 pieces of felt
- felt cupcake stickers*
- fabric glue
- scissors**
- needle/thread or sewing machine

*I got the felt cupcake stickers at Michaels. They were with the felt supplies and came in a pack of about 20.

**I HIGHLY recommend a good pair of fabric scissors for cutting felt. [This](#) is the pair I have.

Instructions:

1. Evenly space your cupcakes on your felt. As you can see, I was able to get 8 cupcakes per sheet of felt. Do not remove the paper backing yet.
2. Then cut out your squares.

My squares are roughly 2"x2", although I didn't measure them. I basically just left the cupcakes on the felt, tried to eyeball what looks "centered" and then cut. After I cut my first square I used that as a pattern for all the remaining squares.

3. Next, remove the paper backing from your felt cupcake sticker, add a tiny dab of fabric glue and center your cupcake in your felt square.

4. The only thing left to do is to sew your felt squares together. I used my sewing machine, but they would be super easy to hand stitch.

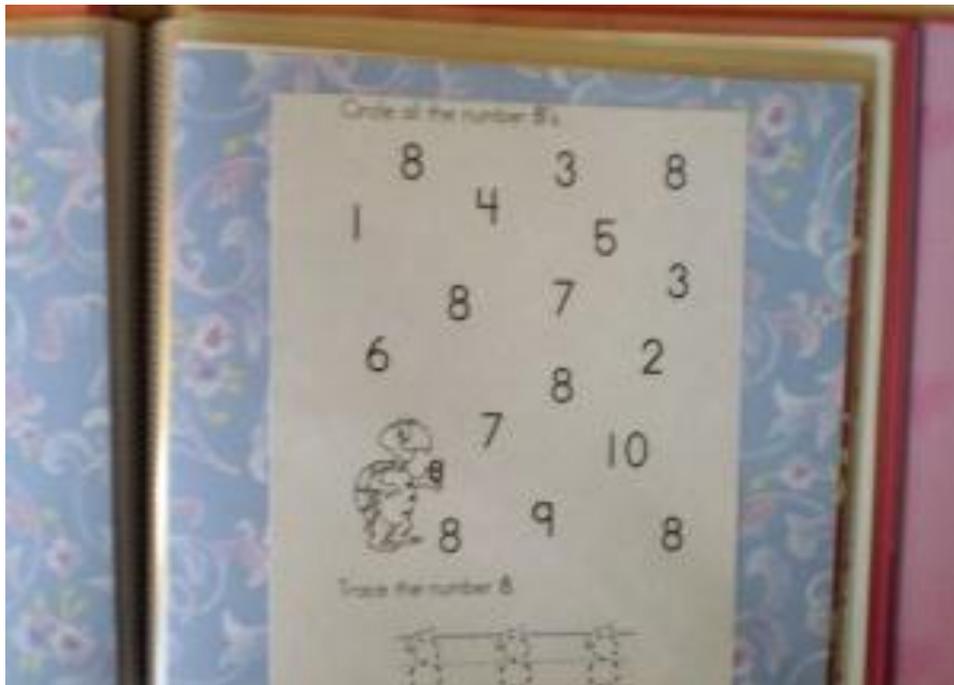
Have fun!

Visit [Playing House](#) for more tutorials, crafts and activities!

Dry Erase Activity Book for Preschoolers

Tara is a wife, SAHM and professional blogger. She has been publishing [Feels Like Home](#) since 2007, where she writes a variety of posts: food and cooking tips, craft ideas, and a myriad of parenting (mis)adventures help make readers' lives easier – or at least make them laugh along the way.

Originally posted on [Feels Like Home](#).



Supplies:

- Photo album
- Extra page protectors
- Patterned paper
- Double-sided photo-safe tape
- Lots of printed pages
- Scissors

Printable Activity Pages:

- [Spring Activity Pages from Life...Your Way](#)
- [Somewhat Simple](#)
- [Fisher Price Alphabet Coloring Pages](#)
- [TLS Books](#)
- [Handwriting Worksheets](#)
- [LefthandedChildren.org](#)

1. Print out activity pages that you like or think would be a good fit for your child's age/development. Because my album was 8×8, I had to print all of the pages scaled down 80% so that they would fit on the page.
2. Trim the edges of the pages so that they will fit in the page protectors. If the page is smaller than the page protector, use double-sided tape to stick it to scrapbook paper.
3. When you have enough pages printed, put them in some kind of order. I chose to put the alphabet activities together, the number activities together, and the coloring activities together. You may choose to have no order at all, but you should make that decision.
4. Give it to your preschooler. That's it!

Note: I bought a package of 4 different colored dry erase markers, and they erase nicely...when they're fresh.

If she draws in the book and leaves it for a day or two, it dries and becomes next to impossible to wipe away without window cleaner. Rather than spritzing the book with Windex, I use Glass Wipes to wipe away the dry erase markers.

Visit [Feels Like Home](#) for more recipe, crafts and homemaking tips!

Indoor Teepee

Valerie is a mom of 2 and the author of [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) where she writes daily about her obsession with inexpensive crafts, family activities, and all around good times on a budget!

Originally posted on [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#).



Supplies:

- 4 bamboo garden stakes (5' long)
- blankets
- rubber band
- clothes pins

Instructions:

Wrap the rubber band around the stakes, and spread out the ends at the bottom. Lay blankets over the stakes and clip with clothes pins. Add some pillows, blankets, a flashlight, and some good books inside the teepee and enjoy your rainy day hideout!

Visit [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) for more ways to have fun on a budget!

Marble Run from Recyclables

Valerie is a mom of 2 and the author of [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) where she writes daily about her obsession with inexpensive crafts, family activities, and all around good times on a budget!

Originally posted on [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#).



Supplies:

- boxes of various sizes
- toilet paper, paper towel and wrapping paper rolls
- masking tape
- marble or bouncy ball

1. Use the various rolls whole as tubes or cut them in half as ramps. Attach them together with masking tape and lay on top of boxes to get the proper height.

2. Once you've built your run, roll your marble through and see if it works. If not, ask your child if he can figure out what is wrong and try to fix it.

This is a fabulous way to sneak in a great physics lesson with kids!

Visit [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) for more ways to have fun on a budget!

spring



butterflies

Birthday Favor or Snack Time Butterflies

A reading specialist, literacy consultant, and lover of messy crafts and lots of candy, Amy Mascott shares how she sneaks in a little bit of learning for her three children every day over at [Teach Mama](#). She's also the creator of [we teach](#), a forum for teachers and parents to share, learn and grow as educators for their children.

Originally posted on [Teach Mama](#).



Supplies:

- snack bags
- pipe cleaners (cut in half)
- beads
- clothes pins
- eyes
- snack filling

Instructions:

1. For butterfly antennas, fold the pipe cleaners into a 'V' and string two beads on the edges. Then fold the tips down so the beads won't fall off.
2. Hot glue the antennas onto the back of a clothes pin and let them dry.

3. Then fill a snack bag with two handfuls of your snack of choice, pinch it in the middle, and clip it with the clothes pin.

4. Add two eyes to each clothespin and then draw on a smile.

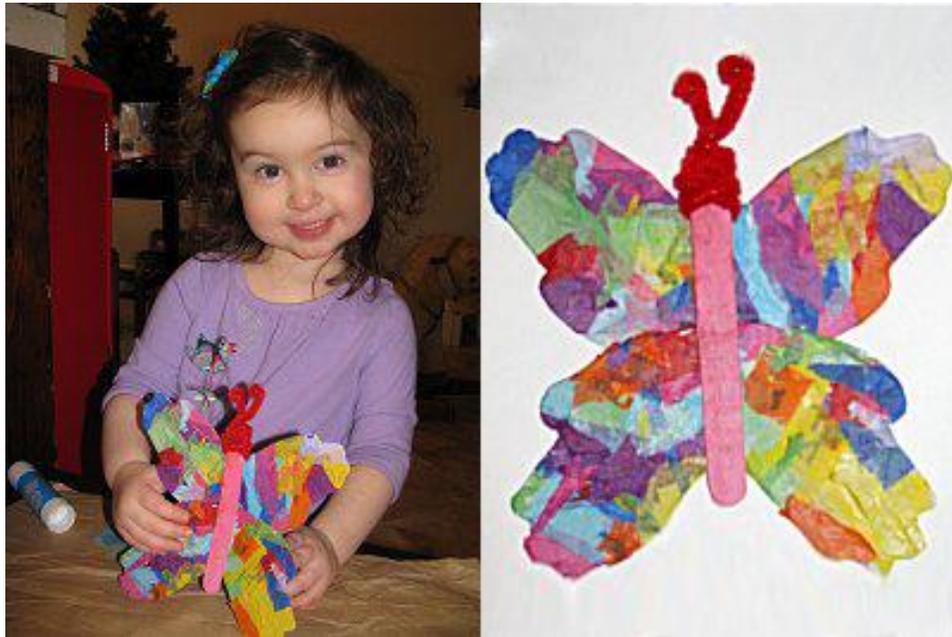
Enjoy!

Visit [Teach Mama](#) for more ideas for learning in the everyday!

Handprint Butterflies

Candace Lindemann is a published children's writer and educational consultant who shares ideas in education, nature and play-based activities and crafts on her blog, [Naturally Educational](#). As the co-editor of [Mamanista](#) and the co-founder of [Bloganthropy](#), she has been active in the online parenting community since 2006.

Originally posted on [Naturally Educational](#).



1,500,000 innocent children perished in the Holocaust.

In an effort to remember them, Holocaust Museum Houston is collecting 1.5 million handmade butterflies.

The butterflies will eventually comprise a breath-taking exhibition, currently scheduled for Spring 2012, for all to remember.

[Read more about The Butterfly Project here.](#)

Supplies:

- 1 piece of cardboard or posterboard
- scraps of thin paper (tissue paper)
- glue
- scissors
- poster paints or markers
- pipe cleaner (optional)
- popsicle stick (optional)

Instructions:

1. Trace child's hands (fingers together, not spread) on a folded piece of cardboard and cut out shapes. You should have four hand-shaped pieces.
2. Paint the Popsicle stick in any color or colors and allow to dry (I was out of popsicle sticks so I just cut another piece of cardboard).
3. Tear up pieces of paper (we used tissue paper, but you could also use scraps of left-over wrapping paper or, for a completely different effect use newspaper).
4. Paste paper on the cardboard, overlapping the pieces of paper and adding more paste as necessary (we used a glue stick, brushing on watered-down paste would also work well).
5. Fold excess paper over and paste down to the back side of the wings (if you used thicker paper, you might need to use scissors or an exacto knife to trim).
6. Glue wings to overlap in the shape of a butterfly.
7. Paste the popsicle stick body over the wings. You can wrap the entire stick in pipe cleaners, just wrap the head (this is what we did), or not wrap it at all. If you choose to use pipe cleaners, you can use your pencil to curl the ends of the antennae. Otherwise, you can paste the butterfly on a piece of white paper and use a marker or paint to add in the antennae.

This is a great opportunity to begin discussing the Holocaust on an age appropriate level, such as this:

"As we made the butterfly, we talked about how wonderful it is to chase butterflies in the spring. I told my daughter that once there were some children who liked to chase butterflies, just like her. Unfortunately, there were also some cruel people who did not understand that children had a right to chase butterflies and run in the grass and live their lives. I explained that we are making this butterfly for these children and also for us—so we never forget."

Visit [Naturally Educational](http://NaturallyEducatonal.com) for more lesson plans, activities and crafts!

spring



spring animals

Baby Chick Craft

Michelle is a former preschool teacher, avid crafter and mother to 2 young children. She blogs about cute food for kids at [Muffin Tin Mom.com](http://MuffinTinMom.com).

Originally posted on [Muffin Tin Mom](http://MuffinTinMom.com).



Supplies:

- construction paper (yellow, orange and your choice)
- school glue
- scissors
- yellow paint
- googly eye
- assorted collage materials in yellow (feathers, pipe cleaners, pompoms)

Instructions:

1. *Ahead of time:* Cut 1 large and 1 medium circle from the yellow construction paper. Cut two long, thin rectangles (for the legs) and three small triangles (for the feet and beak) out of the orange paper. It should look something like this:
2. Allow your child to paint the the large circle (will become the chicks body). We used the Do-A-Dot Stampers (the chick looked like it had pocks!)
3. Next, add the collage materials to the large circle. Set aside.
4. Glue the triangle feet to the chick legs.
5. Glue the large circle to the mounting paper, only at the center of the circle (so you can add the legs and head later). Dab a little glue on the ends of the legs and slip them under the body. (Honestly, it's pretty cute just like this, but for anatomical purposes, I thought it needed a head!)
6. Glue down the head next to the body. Add the eye and beak and let dry!

So cute!

Visit [Muffin Tin Mom](#) for more tips and ideas for all of life's little compartments!

Burlap Bunnies

Alison Steadman is the author of the project blog [Oopsey Daisy](#). A former first grade teacher, Alison is the mother of a busy toddler and enjoys being creative during nap time! She enjoys sewing, baking/cooking, and creating learning packets for teaching Mommy School.

Originally posted on [Oopsey Daisy](#).



Supplies:

- burlap scraps
- sewing machine, pins, tan thread, and other sewing supplies
- dry beans for stuffing
- black acrylic paint
- pink distressing ink
- buttons, fabric strips, or other embellishments

Instructions:

1. Cut 2 pieces of burlap. I did not measure, but I tried to make my pieces tall and long.
2. Cut a "V" shape in the top of each piece for the bunny's ears. Then match them up and pin together.
3. Sew a little bunny sack to stuff with dry beans. Start at the bottom of one ear and sew down the side, across the bottom and up the other side, leaving the top open.
4. Next, clip the corners and turn the little bunny sack inside out. Fill with beans, but not TOO full.

5. Sew straight across the top of the bunny sack and then use ribbon/fabric scraps to gather them. Sew around each of the ears and trim them to your liking. I love that my tan thread was virtually invisible.

6. Paint and embellish. I painted the faces using black acrylic paint. I realized that painting the face lower than I might think turned out the best so it didn't get lost in the "scrunch" when I gathered it. Using a fine Sharpie, I added a few details like whiskers. I used pink distressing ink (I think it was called "Worn Lipstick") to add a little blush to the bunny's cheeks and the insides of his ears.

Have fun!

Visit [Oopsey Daisy](#) to celebrate the beauty in the blunders!

Homemade Recycled Easter Bunny Basket

Marie LeBaron is a mother of 3 and former kindergarten teacher. Always having a love of crafts, she enjoys getting messy with glue and glitter. She now shares many of her tips and tricks she's learned over the years at [Make and Takes](#).

Originally posted on [Make and Takes](#).



Supplies:

- recycled container – this is a frosting tub
- white cardstock paper
- cotton ball
- scissors, markers
- glue – glue dots work great

Instructions:

1. Measure your white paper around your container. With your scissors, cut the paper to fit the length around the whole container. Leave a few inches of the paper extra long for the bunny's ears to point out long.
2. Using glue, attach the paper around the container.
3. Color a bunny face with your markers or crayons.
4. Attach a cotton ball with glue to the back of the container as bunny tail.

Now it's ready to fill up with fun Easter goodies!

Visit [Make and Takes](#) for more crafts, food and fun!

Lion and Lamb Masks

Candace Lindemann is a published children's writer and educational consultant who shares ideas in education, nature and play-based activities and crafts on her blog, [Naturally Educational](#). As the co-editor of [Mamanista](#) and the co-founder of [Bloganthropy](#), she has been active in the online parenting community since 2006.

Originally posted on [Naturally Educational](#).



Lion Mask

Supplies:

- paper plate
- orange and yellow construction paper, cut in 1" x 4" strips
- brown construction paper (for ears)
- glue (we used Elmer's disappearing purple)
- scissors
- craft stick

Instructions:

1. Cut out the center from the paper plate

2. Glue paper strips around the paper plate, hanging off the edge to form a lion's mane. (We did this on the concave side.)
3. Cut out ears and glue onto the plate.
4. Tape or glue a craft stick on the back.
5. Roar!

Lamb Mask

Supplies:

- paper plate
- cotton balls
- pink, brown, and/or black construction paper for the ears and nose
- glue
- scissors
- craft stick

Directions:

1. Cut two eyes out of the top of the mask.
2. Glue cotton balls around the outside of the mask. (My son wanted to glue his all over.)
3. Cut out ears and a nose and glue on. Draw on the mouth. (My daughter wanted to draw on her nose and mouth. I love the funny expression she created!)
4. Glue or tape on the craft stick.
5. Baa! Baa! Baa!

Visit [Naturally Educational](http://NaturallyEducational.com) for more lesson plans, activities and crafts!

Marshmallow Peeps Wreath

Kimberly Danger has been helping moms live well for less for over 11 years through her website, Mommysavers.com, where she shares easy tips on how to put frugality into practice through deals, coupons, and ideas for frugal living. Kimberly lives in Southern Minnesota with her husband and two kids.

Originally posted on MommySavers.com.



Supplies:

- 12' floral foam wreath
- 5 yards satin ribbon
- 20-22 Marshmallow Bunny Peeps
- Glue Gun

Instructions:

1. Start by wrapping your floral wreath with 4 yards of satin ribbon to cover it. Pin into place. To make it even more frugal, you could easily cover this with fabric strips or remnants.
2. Next, glue the Marshmallow Peeps onto the ribbon-covered wreath.
3. To hang, use 1 yard of satin ribbon.

So fun!

Visit MommySavers.com for more ideas for moms to live well on less!

spring



easter eggs

DIY Egg Shakers

Michelle is a former preschool teacher, avid crafter and mother to 2 young children. She blogs about cute food for kids at [Muffin Tin Mom.com](http://MuffinTinMom.com).

Originally posted on [Muffin Tin Mom](http://MuffinTinMom.com).



Supplies:

- medium sized ribbon
- plastic easter egg
- rice
- glue gun
- scissors

Instructions:

1. Fill one half of your egg with rice.
2. Using the glue gun, pipe a light layer of hot glue around the inner edge of the bottom half of the plastic egg.
3. Close tightly.

4. Pipe additional layer of glue around outside egg, where the two halves meet. Place ribbon on top of glue to cover.

5. Using scissors, snip off end of ribbon.

Ta-da! Musical egg shakers every child will enjoy! Now, shake away.

***This is a craft for Grown-ups and older children, due to the presence of the glue gun. Always use extreme caution when operating a glue gun and keep away from little hands.*

Visit [Muffin Tin Mom](#) for more tips and ideas for all of life's little compartments!

Easter Egg Wreath

Sarah is a stay at home mom to a seven year old girl and a five year old boy. She spends her time balancing her daughter's need for fluff and frills and her son's need for dump trucks and shares her adventures at [Frills, Fluff and Trucks](#).

Originally posted on [Frills, Fluff and Trucks](#).



Supplies:

- foam wreath
- wired ribbon
- plastic eggs (4 doz.)
- glue gun

Instructions:

1. You could wrap your foam wreath with ribbon to start or just leave it bare.

2. Start gluing eggs to the wreath as close together as you can.
3. Use wired ribbon to tie a bow and then hot glue the loops of the bow down.
4. Hang with another piece of thick ribbon.

Enjoy!

Visit [Frills, Fluff and Trucks](#) for crafts, décor and more!

Marshmallow Easter Egg Craft

Allison McDonald is the founder of the blog [No Time for Flash Cards](#), mother of two and former preschool teacher. Allison's passion is teaching through play with creativity and when appropriate lots of glitter.

Originally posted on [No Time for Flash Cards](#).



Supplies:

- white & colored mini marshmallows
- construction paper
- glue
- marker

Instructions:

1. Start by drawing an Easter egg on your paper.
2. Add glue along the line.
3. Add your white marshmallows along the edge. We did 15 then ate one, 21 then ate one , and 17 and ate one.
4. Next ask your child how many stripes they want. I caution you perhaps give them a range, my son said 8 and wouldn't budge. I ended up doing 3 rows because 8 is a lot for a 3 year old to do

5. Add your colored marshmallows. We decided to add a sorting element by saying the lines can be any color, but it must be all one color. So my son was forced to sort the colors when adding them. Worked great! With younger toddlers I'd just let them go for it. Older children can add a patterning lesson in too.

6. Let dry, and you're done!

Visit [No Time for Flash Cards](#) for more ways to promote play, discovery & learning!

Wax Painted Easter Eggs

Mari-Ann is a certified Montessori teacher and homeschooling mom to her 4 year old son. On her blog, [Counting Coconuts](#), she shares a variety of learning activities and crafty ideas for toddlers and preschoolers. She lives on the island of Bermuda with her husband, son, and 2 fluffy cats.

Originally posted on [Counting Coconuts](#).



In 1979, my very creative mother came up with the idea of painting eggs with melted crayon wax. She taught my sister and I how to do it and it was a family tradition until she passed away in 1988. Up until yesterday it had been 22 years since I decorated eggs this way. It was bittersweet to revisit this old tradition and it took me right back in our tiny kitchen in Minnesota. I was happy share our little family secret with my niece, Tia, and now I'll share it with all of you, too...

*Disclaimer: of course it's entirely possible that this idea originates from somewhere else and/or that it has since been discovered by others, but I only know of it through my mama.

Supplies:

- LOTS of crayons
- muffin tin (we used a 12 cup tin)
- roasting pan (or any shallow pan that's larger than the muffin tin)
- pencils (enough for each person)
- flat head pins (enough for each pencil)
- clean, cool, and dry hard boiled eggs
- water

Instructions:

1. Begin by peeling all the crayons. Then group them into color families.
2. Stick the pin into the eraser on the pencil. This will be your "paintbrush".
3. Pour hot water into the roasting pan and place the crayon-filled muffin tin inside of it.
4. Place the pan over a burner on your stove top and heat on medium-low. Once the crayons are good and melted, you can turn the burner down to just a simmer.
5. Now, this next part is a bit tricky, so if you find it doesn't work for you straight away, don't give up - it takes some of practice!

Using your "paintbrush", dip the head of the pin into the melted color of your choice and very quickly drag the pin across the egg, tipping the pin to the side while you do this. The key is to move quickly because it takes seconds for the wax to harden onto the pin instead of onto the egg. The beauty is, if you make a mistake you can easily scrape off the wax and try again. {Tip: to remove the excess wax that will eventually accumulate on your pin, simply dip the pin into the hot water on the outside of the muffin tin.}

This starburst pattern was a favorite of my mother's, but you can experiment with any kind of design you can think of.

You can also dip the entire egg into the wax. (Be careful though; the wax is hot!)

After you've finished decorating your eggs, let the wax harden a bit and then place the entire tin in the freezer. About an hour later you'll have some new crayons!

Visit [Counting Coconuts](#) for more Montessori-inspired learning activities and ideas.

spring



flowers & gardens

A Bouquet of Flowers

Mandi Ehman is a work-at-home, homeschooling mom of four little girls under seven. She blogs at Life...Your Way with one goal: to help you sort through all of the facts and opinions so you can make an informed decision about what works best for your preferences, your needs and your lifestyle.

Originally posted on Doodles' Place.



Supplies:

- cardstock
- tissue paper squares
- green & pink markers

Instructions:

1. *Ahead of time:* Cut a piece of cardstock into four pieces and draw flower stems & bows.
2. Next, scrunch all of the tissue paper squares. Some we scrunched up by themselves, and others we scrunched together in different color combinations.
3. Then, add several dots of glue across the top of the stems and glue the “flowers” to them. Add more glue as needed.

Visit Life...Your Way for more ideas for pursuing intentional motherhood!

Broccoli Print Blossom Tree

Anna Ranson is an early years and art specialist teacher who taught for 10 years before becoming a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters. At [The Imagination Tree](#), she writes about creative, playful, educational fun, highlighting the learning objectives in each activity.

Originally posted on [The Imagination Tree](#).



Supplies:

- construction paper
- broccoli
- brown & pink paint

Instructions:

1. Cut a broccoli stem in half, from top to bottom. Cut it as straight and evenly as possible so that when it lies facing downwards it lies completely flat on the paper.
2. Dip it into brown paint, lift up and press evenly onto paper to create a perfect tree print! (If you don't have brown paint mix red, blue and green together.)
3. Add pink blossoms by dipping your fingertips into pink paint and dotting the blossoms all over the tree branches. You could add green leaves instead if you wanted.

Cute!

Visit [The Imagination Tree](#) for more creative, playful learning ideas!

Daffodil Windmills

Cathy James is passionate about kids' play. She blogs at [NurtureStore](http://NurtureStore.com), a site which is packed full of playful craft, math, science and literacy ideas you can use with your children to have fun and give them a great start in life. She's the mother of two girls and lives in the UK.

Originally posted on [Nurture Store](http://NurtureStore.com).



Supplies:

- yellow cardstock or cardstock & yellow paint
- green cardstock
- egg carton
- paper fastener
- yellow and/or orange paint
- small paint brush
- stapler
- ruler

- pencil
- scissors or craft knife

Instructions:

1. Start by cutting a square from your yellow cardstock. If you are going to paint your cardstock, you will need to paint both sides of the card.

2. Cut out the cup part of the egg carton to be the trumpet part of your daffodil. Paint it either yellow or orange, depending on what color you would like in the center of your flower.



3. Once any paint is dry you need to cut lines into the yellow square of cardstock as shown in the photo below. You can draw the lines using the pencil and ruler and then cut along them with the scissors.

4. Now you need to fold in four of the edges, as shown below. Fasten them in place with a stapler.



5. Make a stalk for the flower by rolling a piece of the green cardstock into a tube.

6. Use the paper fastener to join the egg box trumpet, the daffodil and the stalk all together. You can poke the paper fastener straight through the cardstock, but you might find it easier to make a hole with either the pencil or craft knife first. You want the hole to be loose enough for the daffodil to twirl

around to give you the windmill effect.

And there you have it – a beautiful daffodil. You could make a few of them in different shades to make a lovely spring bouquet.

Visit [Nurture Store](http://www.nurturestore.com) for fun, easy, inexpensive activities for your family.

Easy Spring Mural

Valerie is a mom of 2 and the author of [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) where she writes daily about her obsession with inexpensive crafts, family activities, and all around good times on a budget!

Originally posted on [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#).



Supplies:

- craft paper
- masking tape
- flower-shaped post-it notes
- dot stickers

Instructions:

1. Cut out the shape of a tree branch and use masking tape to hold it to the wall.
2. Add post-it note flowers to the tree branch.

Optional: Use dot stickers to add centers to the flowers.

Fun, easy and inexpensive!

Visit [Frugal Family Fun Blog](#) for more ways to have fun on a budget!

Flower Photo Magnets

Kim is a mom to a toddler and a preschooler, and a foster mom, too. She blogs at [Mom Tried It](#) where she shares the fun activities and crafts she tries out each day with the kids. After all, she is just a big kid herself.

Originally posted on [Mom Tried It](#).



Supplies:

- jar lids
- construction paper or craft foam
- magnets
- scissors
- glue

Instructions:

1. Print cute pictures of the kids.
2. Trace the outline of each lid onto the picture where you want to cut it.
3. Draw petals on your construction paper or craft foam and cut them out.
4. Glue the petals to the back of the lid.
5. Glue magnets to the back of each lid. If you have them, you could cut up old fridge magnets and use them for this.
5. Simply place the cut pictures into the lids. They should pop right in , but if you cut them too small, you might have to glue them.

So cute!

Visit [Mom Tried It](#) for more crafts, books and tips for raising young kids!

Making a Play Garden

Anna Ranson is an early years and art specialist teacher who taught for 10 years before becoming a stay-at-home mom to her two daughters. At [The Imagination Tree](#), she writes about creative, playful, educational fun, highlighting the learning objectives in each activity.

Originally posted on [The Imagination Tree](#).



Supplies:

- low fencing
- compost
- plants
- kiddie gardening tools
- miscellaneous

Instructions:

1. Mark your garden area with low fencing, leaving a gap at the entrance.
2. Add buckets, shovels, watering containers and muffin tins.
3. Plan flowers along the outer edge. You could also add herbs for a sensory experience.
4. Make a pile of pebbles, a windmill or whatever else your heart desires.
5. Use a turned up flower pot, half of a terracotta urn and a log to begin the makings of a bug habitat. Leave them undisturbed, face down in the soil, for as long as possible to attract

little creatures to come and live underneath. Then, take a look at what you can find with a magnifying glasses.

Have fun and use your imagination to add to your play garden!

Visit [The Imagination Tree](#) for more creative, playful learning ideas!

Painted Flower Pots

A reading specialist, literacy consultant, and lover of messy crafts and lots of candy, Amy Mascott shares how she sneaks in a little bit of learning for her three children every day over at [Teach Mama](#). She's also the creator of [we teach](#), a forum for teachers and parents to share, learn and grow as educators for their children.

Originally posted on [Teach Mama](#).



Supplies:

- clay pot
- daisies
- potting soil
- paint & paintbrush

Instructions;

1. Paint your pots & dishes white. to serve as a base for your artwork.
2. Fill your palettes with paint.
3. Cut hearts & tulips out of sponges for stamping.
4. Have each child paint their own design and let them dry.

5. The next day, fill with potting soil and plant your daisies.

These are perfect teacher or Mother's Day gifts!

Visit [Teach Mama](#) for more ideas for learning in the everyday.

spring



birds & nests

Mrs. Rosey Posey and the Baby Bird

Amanda is a stay-at-home mom of two who blogs at OhAmanda.com and [Impress Your Kids](http://ImpressYourKids.com). In her former life, Amanda was a Children's Pastor — overseeing, organizing and developing ministry for kids in nursery through middle school, but now that she is a mom, her "skills" are used up on her kids!

Originally posted on [Impress Your Kids](http://ImpressYourKids.com).



These birds were inspired by [Mrs. Rosey Posey and the Baby Bird](#), a simple story that teaches that God sees everything—and loves and knows us all.

Supplies:

- glue
- paint
- construction paper
- paper plate
- tissue paper

Instructions:

1. Paint a paper plate and fold it in half.
2. Glue paper triangles along the fold as feathers and twist strips of tissue paper together as a tail.
3. Inside, write this verse:

Luke 12:6-7 :: "Aren't 5 sparrows sold for two pennies? But God does not forget even one of them. He counts every hair on your head. So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows!"

The best part is the birds rock back and forth when you're done!

Visit [Impress Your Kids](#) for more ways to impress God's word in your kids' hearts.

Nest Zest

As a proud momma to a tiny artist, Jen Berlingo chronicles the art-ventures she has with her daughter at paintcutpaste.com. Jen is a transpersonal art therapist who aims to inspire parents, teachers, and caregivers to keep the imaginal spirit alive and nurtured in the children they love.

Originally posted on Paint Cut Paste.



This project is truly for the birds... it's a way to help our little winged friends pimp their nests for spring, while also using up the scraps you have cluttering up that art bin.

Supplies:

- wire (20 gauge or thicker)
- craft scraps
- pliers
- ball

Instructions:

1. *Ahead of time:* Take some wire and wrap it around a ball. Squishy balls are best because you can easily slip them out once you're done wrapping.

2. After you've wrapped it sufficiently, bring the ends of the wire to meet at the top, for a loop, and twist around it with some small pliers. Then gently pull the ball out of a larger opening. Once you do that, you may need to manipulate your wire back into a ball shape with your hands. You can get creative with sizes and shapes. I strung a couple of wooden beads into ours for fun.

3. Then grab your little one and go hunting through your art cabinet/closet/drawer/bin for scraps of felts, fabrics, ribbons, raffia, moss, feathers, or anything that seems soft and strong enough to hold up to rain. Think earth-friendly and biodegradable. (No plastics, please!)

4. Stuff the wire ball full of your scraps and then hang it from a tree for the birds to discover!

Visit [Paint Cut Paste](#) for more ways to promote play, discovery & learning!

"Tweet" Nest

Allison McDonald is the founder of the blog [No Time for Flash Cards](#), mother of two and former preschool teacher. Allison's passion is teaching through play with creativity and when appropriate lots of glitter.

Originally posted on [No Time for Flash Cards](#).



Supplies:

- barely inflated balloon
- brown yarn
- scissors
- a dish
- white glue
- blue malt candies

Instructions:

1. Cut our yarn into 4 inch strands. In all I had about 25 strands.
2. Dip into the glue

3. Place it on the balloon. I like doing it on the tied end because when you are done you can clip it to a hanger by the tie to let it dry. You want to apply the yarn randomly and only part way up the balloon.
4. Keep going. Criss cross all over, layer it, zig zag etc... Oh and yes this is very messy, but worth it.
5. Let dry for at least 24 hours. You can hang it to dry by clipping it to a wire hanger, or you can also place it in a bowl or glass just be careful not to let the yarn touch the dish , it may stick to it.
6. Pop the balloon and throw it away.
7. Add your "eggs" and enjoy!

Note: Please please be careful with latex balloons and little kids; it's terrifying what can happen when the two mix.

Visit [No Time for Flash Cards](#) for more ways to promote play, discovery & learning!

spring



handprint crafts

Thumbprint Hyacinth

Jill blogs at [Meet the Dubiens](#). She's married to a wonderful man and they have 2 amazing kids, a son who is 2 and a daughter who is 3. She's a working mom, and in her spare time she likes to craft and cook with the kiddos. They're always creating something fun here!

Originally posted on [Meet the Dubiens](#).



Supplies:

- canvas or paper
- purple paint - or you could use pink, blue, etc.
- green marker
- green craft foam
- scissors
- glue
- a thumb

Instructions:

1. Using your green marker, draw a straight line in the middle of your paper or canvas - this will be the hyacinths stem.
2. Dip your child's thumb in the paint and have them stamp their thumb up one side and down the other of the green line, only doing this on the top half
3. Cut two leaves out of your green craft foam and glue them on the bottom of the stem.

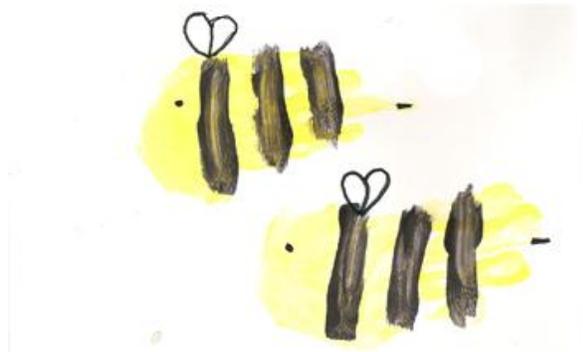
Enjoy!

Visit [Meet the Dubiens](#) for more crafts, recipes and fun food!

More Spring Handprints

Mandi Ehman is a work-at-home, homeschooling mom of four little girls under seven. She blogs at Life...Your Way with one goal: to help you sort through all of the facts and opinions so you can make an informed decision about what works best for your preferences, your needs and your lifestyle.

Originally posted on Christmas Your Way.



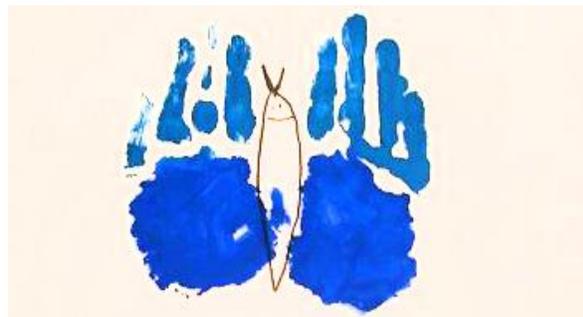
Bees

Paint Colors:

- yellow
- black

Instructions:

- Paint your child's whole hand, except their thumb, with yellow paint
- Press onto paper to form the bee's body
- Add black paint to the tip of their finger to create stripes on the bees body
- Use a black marker to add wings, an eye and a stinger



Butterfly

Paint Colors:

- any color

Instructions:

- Use a pen to draw the butterfly's body
- Paint both hands with a single color and press them down to create the wings
- If you want to be more creative, let the paint dry and add dots or other designs with different colors

More Spring Handprints (cont.)



Caterpillar & Butterfly

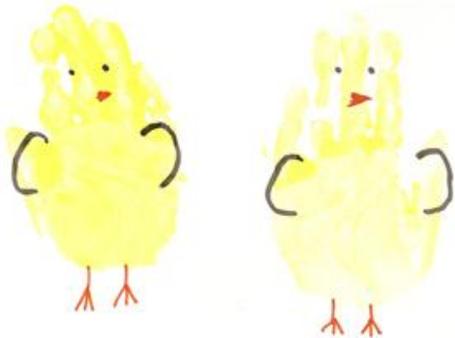
Paint Colors:

- red
- green



Instructions:

- Dip your child's finger into red paint and create the top wings for the butterfly and Alternating sections of the caterpillar
- Use green to complete both insects
- Once the paint dries, add faces and antennae with a pen



Chicks

Paint Colors:

- yellow

Instructions:

- Paint your child's full hand with yellow paint
- Keeping their fingers together, press onto paper to form the chicks body
- Once the paint dries, add eyes & wings with a yellow marker and a beak and feet with an orange marker

More Spring Handprints (cont.)



Sun

Paint Colors:

- yellow

Instructions:

- Paint your child's full hand with yellow paint
- Turn the page and have them create four or five handprints all pointing out from the center to form the sun (you may have to add more paint to their hand between each handprint)



Sunflower

Paint Colors:

- yellow
- brown
- green

Instructions:

- Paint the palm of your child's hand, except their thumb, with yellow paint
- Turn the page and have them create five handprints all pointing toward the center to form the flower (you may have to add more paint to their hand between each handprint)
- Use a paintbrush to add a green stem at the bottom
- Use brown thumbprints to make the seeds in the middle

More Spring Handprints (cont.)



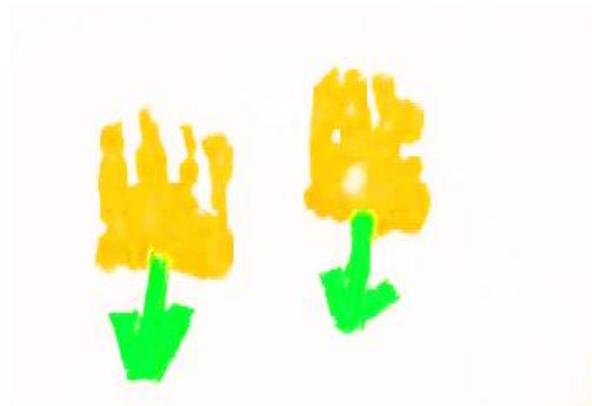
Strawberry

Paint Colors:

- red
- black
- green

Instructions:

- Paint your child's whole hand, except their thumb, with red paint
- Press onto paper to form the strawberry
- Add black thumbprints as seeds
- Add green paint to the tip of their finger and have them smear it to create the top leaves



Tulips

Paint Colors:

- yellow
- green

Instructions:

- Paint your child's fingers and the top of their hand with yellow paint
- Press onto paper to form the flowers
- Use the green paint to paint the stem and leaves

More Spring Handprints (cont.)



Umbrella

Paint Colors:

- any color!

Instructions:

- Paint your child's fingers and the top of their hand with paint
- Turn the paper upside down
- Have them spread their fingers and press down to form the top of the umbrella
- Use a black marker to draw the outline and handle of the umbrella as well as a few raindrops

Visit [Life...Your Way](http://yourway.net) for more ideas for pursuing intentional motherhood!

spring



and more...

And More from No Time for Flash Cards

Still looking for more spring crafts? Be sure to browse [No Time for Flash Cards](#) for even more fun!

:: [Bug Crafts](#)

:: [Butterfly Crafts](#)

:: [Easter Crafts](#)

:: [Egg Carton Crafts](#)

:: [Rainbow Crafts](#)

:: [Springtime Crafts](#)

About Allison



I have been teaching children in various capacities since 1993, so you can imagine I have done my fair share of crafts, songs, and circle times.

I started as a day camp leader at a local recreation centre while in high school, taught various preschool age and after school programs through university and worked as a reading tutor while pursuing a second degree in elementary education.

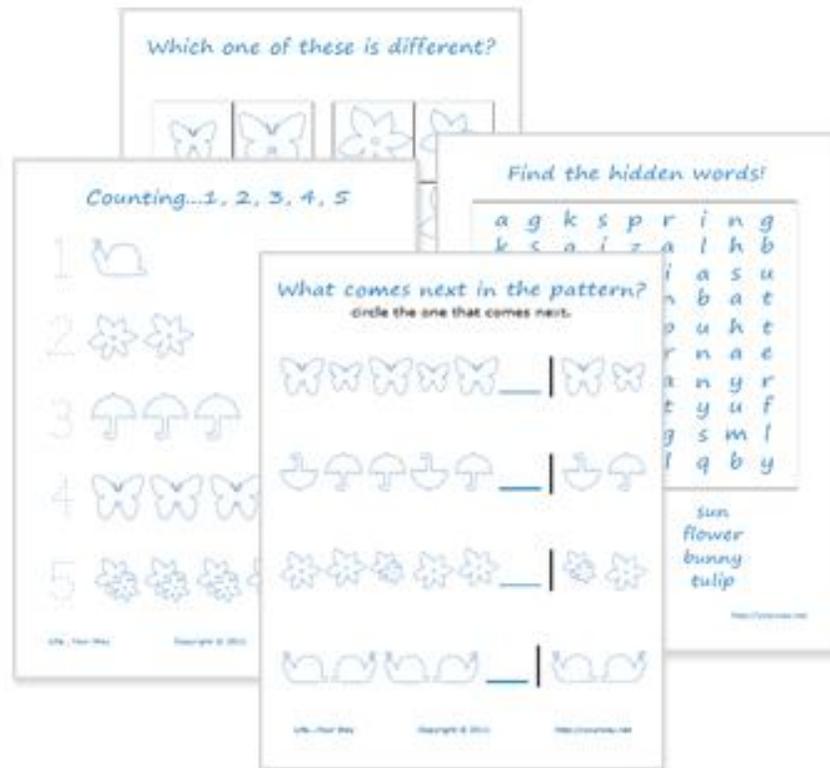
After graduating with honors I set out to teach, ended up as a director of a large childcare center and preschool and returned to the classroom after a year, realizing pretty quickly that I belong in a classroom not an office.

My son's birth brought me home and my love of teaching and helping other parents sparked the idea for [No Time for Flash Cards](#).

Since starting NTFFC in early 2008 I have had the opportunity to contribute activities to some wonderful websites, become a staff blogger at [FamilyEducation.com](#) and write curriculum for [Itty-Bitty Bookworm](#), a literature based preschool curriculum.

Early childhood education is my passion. Despite my degree in elementary education my heart belongs to the little guys!

Free Printable Activity Pages



Download or print these free activity pages for more spring fun:

- :: [Color the butterfly!](#)
- :: [Counting...1, 2, 3, 4, 5](#)
- :: [Find the hidden words!](#)
- :: [What comes next in the pattern?](#)
- :: [Which one of these is different?](#)

Or get these activity pages plus more than 100 other printables in a single download when you [buy the complete download pack for just \\$7!](#) The complete set includes all printables published to date, organized by folder within a single download. It also includes free monthly email updates with any new or updated printables in a single download as well. [Read more about download packs here.](#)

About Mandi Ehman and Life...Your Way



You might wonder, with a name like [Life...Your Way](#), whether I believe in any absolutes. Let me assure you that I do.

I believe in right and wrong, the God of the Bible, the covenant of marriage and the sanctity of life.

However, I also believe there are lots of gray areas where each of us have to make our own decisions. Some of these are a good/better/best kind of thing. But most are simply to-MAY-to versus to-MAH-to.

In this internet age, we're hit with opinions, facts and information from every angle every day — about food, finances, motherhood, success and more. And each day we have to wade through it all and try to decide what's best for ourselves, our family and our children.

Life...Your Way has one goal: to help you sort through all of the facts and opinions so you can make an informed decision about what works best for your preferences, your needs and your lifestyle.

About Mandi

Eight years ago I married the guy who lived across the street.

We set off on a cross-country adventure, moving 3,000 miles away from our family to a city where we knew no one. We made a lot of stupid decisions and did a lot of growing up, and two years later our oldest daughter was born. In the five years that followed, we had three more babies, moved three times and built our dream home on a little slice of heaven in the middle of nowhere. We made a few more mistakes, and our hearts broke as we said goodbye to three babies that we never got to hold in our arms.

These days, my husband has the privilege of being a stay-at-home dad, and I have the incredible privilege of pursuing my passion — writing, blogging and more — while also being home for all of the milestones I wouldn't want to miss and the boobos that need kissing. We're a homeschooling family, which means we get to spend every day together. And most days we consider that a blessing!

Although it might sometimes seem like I've got it all figured out, let me assure you that I don't. There are probably dirty dishes in my sink right now, and I end up wasting time on Facebook more often than I care to admit. Our marriage is beautiful, but not perfect, and I still get buyer's remorse after a stupid impulse purchase. I'm the spokesperson for [Plan to Eat](#), but sometimes I totally ignore my meal plan and we end up eating out because mama doesn't feel like cooking.

But through it all, we're just a family trying to make the best decisions we can while pursuing our passions and enjoying each other. And here at Life...Your Way, I try to share the things I'm thinking about and the lessons we're learning along the way.