

Five Little Valentines

Five little valentines pretty with lace

Standing in a row, each in his own place.

The first one says, "Will you be mine?"

The second one says, "Be my Valentine."

The third one says, "I love you."

The fourth one says, "I will be true."

The fifth one says, "Let's all run away and find a little friend today."

4. Attach a craft stick behind each Valentine using contact cement or a hot glue gun.
5. Encourage a group of five children to hold the Valentines and recite the first two lines of the fingerplay together and then one of each of the remaining five lines.

★ Jackie Wright, Enid, OK

Valentine Fun Candy Making

Materials

Chocolate playdough (flour, cocoa powder, salt, cream of tartar, oil, water) • plastic candy molds • assorted Valentine candy boxes • mixing bowls • rolling pins and other playdough cutters

What to do

1. Make chocolate playdough with the children.
2. Mix together 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cocoa powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cream of tartar. Add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons oil and 1 cup boiling water and stir quickly.
3. Encourage the children to make playdough candy using the molds.
4. The chocolate playdough smells like real chocolate, and the children love filling the boxes with the pretend candy to give to someone special.

★ Diane Hennington, League City, TX

Edible Peppermint Valentine Hearts

Materials

Oven • two candy canes for each heart • cookie sheet • aerosol cooking spray • 2 metal spoons

What to do

Author Note: You could try this at school using a toaster oven, but it's a little too difficult for the children to do much except watch. The children love receiving the hearts as a treat from their teacher, so you might want to make them at home and bring them in.

1. Preheat the oven to 300° F.
2. Remove the wrappers from candy canes.
3. Lightly spray the cookie sheet with oil.
4. Place the candy canes on the cookie sheet, forming heart shapes. Be sure the ends touch, but leave some space between the hearts.
5. Place in the oven for a few minutes until the candy softens. (About three minutes, but check so the candy doesn't melt completely.)
6. Remove the tray and use the spoons to join the ends where the candy canes meet.
7. Allow them to cool completely.
8. Wrap hearts individually in clear plastic wrap.
9. If desired, do a simpler version of this activity with the children. Show them how to tape together the ends of two wrapped candy candles to form hearts.

Tip: When candy canes go on sale after Christmas, buy a lot!

★ Mary Jo Shannon, Roanoke, VA