

Spring Flower Pots

Materials

Small clay pot and saucer
Newspaper
Acrylic paint
Small paintbrushes
Clear resin spray can (found at hobby stores)
Flower seeds or small flowering plants
Moist potting soil

What to do

1. Give each child a small clay pot and saucer.
2. Ask the children to place their pots upside down on newspaper and paint designs on them. (It's nice to write the date on the bottom.)
3. Leave the pots on the newspaper and allow them to dry thoroughly.
4. When the pots are dry, keep them on the newspaper and spray them generously with clear resin spray (adult only). Let them dry overnight.
5. When the pots are completely dry (not tacky), fill them with moist potting soil and place the saucers under each pot.
6. Help the children plant either the seeds or small flowers and water them lightly.
7. Place the pots in a warm, sunny window until they are ready to give as a gift.

More to do

Books: Read books about flowers and how they grow.

Field Trip: Visit a botanical garden or large nursery.

Holidays: Talk about Mother's Day and what it means.

◆ Christina I. Waugh, Littleton, CO

Clothespin Refrigerator Paper Holder

Materials

Clothespins, one for each child
Paintbrushes
Craft paint
Glitter or sequins and glue
Magnet squares
Hot glue gun (adult only)

What to do

1. Give each child a clothespin.
2. Encourage the children to paint their clothespins.
3. The children can sprinkle glitter onto the wet paint and let it dry. Or, they can let the paint dry, then glue on sequins.
4. When the clothespins are dry, use a hot glue gun to attach magnets to the back (adult only).
5. Use them as refrigerator paper holders.

◆ Lisa Chichester, Parkersburg, WV

Sandpaper Starfish

Materials

Scissors
Sandpaper
Pictures of sea life
Crayons
9" x 12" (22 cm x 30 cm) construction paper in light colors
Newspaper
Iron (adult only)
Markers