

# Kid's Korner

NOV 2010

Almost every day of the year has been designated a 'special' day. So in addition to the usual holidays, here are a few that you may not have heard of-enjoy!



*Kind words can  
be short and  
easy to speak  
but their echoes  
are truly  
endless.*

Mother Teresa

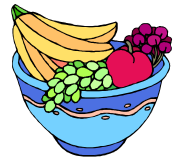
## NOVEMBER 13 IS WORLD KINDNESS DAY!

**Friendship Tree:** Put a felt tree on your board. Have a felt heart prepared with each child's name. Have the children close their eyes and each choose a heart with another child's name. They identify the name and think of something nice they could do for that child. Then they hang the heart on an empty branch on the felt board tree.



**Feelings Board:** Have faces prepared with different expressions (e.g., happy, sad) to place on a felt board. Each child takes a turn to tell how they feel and, if they wish, to explain the feeling. Expand upon the feeling if the child needs help, and have the other children think of ways they can help if he/she is sad, mad, etc..

**Friendship Salad:** Have each child bring an item to add to your friendship salad (e.g., strawberries, grapes). Design a big smile into the salad and discuss how everyone participated to make it smile.



**Stone Soup:** Read aloud the story "Stone Soup" and have each child bring in ingredients. Prepare the soup. Discuss how each child's contribution combines with other contributions, and they all work together to make something that wasn't there before. Celebrate the kindness of sharing!

## NOVEMBER 16 NATIONAL BUTTON DAY

A button mosaic becomes a cheery sun catcher when it's sandwiched between layers of clear Con-Tact paper. To make one, cut out a square of Con-Tact paper, remove its backing, and lay it sticky-side up. (If you like, slide a drawing beneath the square as a guide.) Place buttons on the square to create a shape, leaving at least a 1-inch border on all sides. When you're done, cover the mosaic with a second Con-Tact paper square. Smooth the edges with a cotton swab and cut out the mosaic, leaving a -inch border on all sides. Stick your creation to a window with glue dots or tape.



## Dec 6 -12 National Hand Washing Week



**Experiment:** Talk about different ways that germs can be spread. Have children sit in a circle. Pretend to sneeze in your hand and spray some cooking spray on your hand. Sprinkle some glitter on your hand. Ask children to pretend that the specks of glitter are germs. Then, shake a child's hand and have the child look at their hand. Say "Look, she got my germs." Then have that child shake someone else's hand, and so on. Choose one child to wash but not dry his/her hands, Then have that child show the other children his/her hands (not all glitter should be gone yet). Next, have the child dry his/her hands with a paper towel and show the other children again. Explain that correct hand washing is important to get rid of germs that can make us sick. (can also be done with cinnamon instead of glitter, and to order a kit where you can see "germs" that glow under a black light see [www.glowgerm.com](http://www.glowgerm.com). Don't forget: we have a DO BUGS NEED DRUGS resource kit!

## JANUARY 3RD IS DRINKING STRAW DAY

**Try straw painting:** Give each child a large piece of paper and drop a few drops of thin, watery paint on it. Let them use a plastic straw to blow the paint gently across the paper to create mystery designs.

**Try bubble painting:** Stir together 1-2 tablespoons paint, 1–2 tablespoons no more tears type shampoo, and about 1/2 cup of water. Pour a small amount of soap mixture into a yogurt cup, place straw inside soap mixture and have children gently blow to make bubbles. "Catch" the bubbles onto cardstock or stiff paper and hold til bubbles pop to make beautiful bubble prints.



**Try the drinking straw game:** each racer holds a bent drinking straw between his or her nose and upper lip (you will have to demonstrate this) The children curl their lip to hold it tight, choose a short distance and see if they can run to the 'finish' line without losing their straw.



## January 25 is Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day!

Some other uses for this handy wrap:

- 1) keep a small child from squirming while getting their hair cut-just give them a piece of bubble wrap to pop
- 2) Take some with you on your next vacation to wrap breakable souvenirs in.
- 3) Place a large sheet of bubble wrap on the floor and have a dance party with the children.
- 4) Paint the wrap and press on paper to make fish or dinosaur scales.
- 5) Cut a few different size circles of bubble wrap, press onto white paint then onto a paper to make snowman that looks like its made out of snowballs.
- 6) Create bubble wrap "stamps" by cutting squares or rectangles of bubble wrap, covering with poster paint, and stamping designs onto cardstock or heavy paper which can then be turned into cards or backgrounds for other projects.

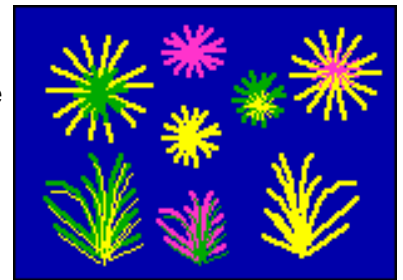


## February 3, 2010 Chinese Lunar New Year's Day The Year of the Rabbit

Chinese New Year is the most important of the Chinese holidays, and is a time of feasting with the family, celebration, fireworks, and gift-giving. It is a 15-day holiday, beginning on the first day of a new moon and ending with the full moon on the day of the Lantern Festival.

These fireworks pictures are great decorations for Chinese New Year. The Chinese invented fireworks thousands of years ago.

It is easy to make fireworks pictures with the children. Use an eyedropper or small spoon to drop white glue onto dark construction paper. Blow the glue around using a straw, then sprinkle glitter over the glue.



## RED AND GOLD DECORATIONS



Let your children make holiday decorations using the colors red and gold, which are thought to bring happiness and prosperity. Cut a piece of red construction paper in half lengthwise to make two long, narrow papers. Invite your children to decorate the papers with gold glitter-glue designs and glued on pieces of gold ribbon or gold gift-wrap scraps. When they have finished, hang their creations around the room.

## Chopstick Practice

Let your children practice using chopsticks by putting chopsticks in your dramatic play area and providing them with items to pick up with the sticks (pompoms, marshmallows, cotton balls, and small toys are great items to use) To make them easier to control, you can place a small accordion folded piece of paper between the tops of the chopsticks and hold it in place with an elastic band

