

M is for Mommy Week

Suggested Books:

The Mother's Day Mice by Eve Bunting
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown
You Are My Wish Come True by Marianne Richmond
Sleepytime Rhyme by Remy Charlip
I Love You, Mommy (Little Golden Book) by Edie Evans
I Love My Mommy Because... by Laurel Porter-Gaylord
I Love My Mommy by Sebastien Braun
A Pocket Full of Kisses by Audrey Penn
Love You Forever by Robert Munsch

Vocabulary Words:

Mother, Mom, Mommy, Love, Mother's Day, Heart, Eight, Raccoon, Weimeraner,

Songs and Fingerplays:

I Really Love My Mother

(Tune of Did you ever see a Lassie?)

I really love my mother, my mother, my mother,
I really love my mother, I love her so much!
She clothes me, and feeds me
She hugs me and needs me
I really love my mother, I love her so much!

Dear Mother, I Love You poem

Dear Mother, I love you
I'm so glad you're mine!
You hug me and hold me
And make each day fine!

Dear Mother, I love you
For all you have done.
I wanted to tell you
That you're Number One!

Mommy is the One I Love

(Tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)

Mommy is the one I love,
One I love, one I love,
Mommy is the one I love,
And she loves great big hugs!

Mother's Day Bouquet

(Sung to Yankee Doodle)

I picked some flowers for my mom
To make a nice bouquet.
I'll give her a hug and a great big smile
And wish her Happy Mother's Day!

M-O-M-M-Y

(Tune of B-I-N-G-O)

I love her and she loves me
And mommy is her name - O
M-O-M-M-Y, M-O-M-M-Y
M-O-M-M-Y
And Mommy is her name-O

Gather:

Dramatic Play:

Put mommy dress-ups in the housekeeping corner. Include high heels, hats, purses, scarves, maybe even some bits of make-up. Set out empty nail polish bottles for pretend play. Hang a picture of you as a mommy on the wall in the housekeeping corner, and maybe even one of your mother mothering you when you were little.

Blocks:

Whatever block-play accessories you have for this week, put out eight of each. Maybe eight matchbox cars, or eight small airplanes. Eight dolphins or eight little people. Even eight trains.

Music:

On the blog post "M is for Mommy!" I have included several CDs or DVDs for special music. Some let you listen to a few bars at Amazon.com before making your purchase. There is "Relaxing Spa Music: Mother's Day" by Don Shetterly. While you might use it for naptime music this week, I was really thinking you might use it for yourself! As a gift for you from you. I haven't seen the DVD "William Wegman's Alphabet Soup" yet, but I can't wait for my copy to come. It looks adorable! I'm

partial to weimarans anyway, as my dad owned one when I was a child.

Projects:

Nature Flower Walk: Go for a walk around your neighborhood, or park. Look for flowers that are blooming. Point them out to your child. If you have flowers blooming in your own yard, help your child pick ONE of each different bloom, press it, and then mount it into a magnetic-page photo album. Write the name of the flower in large block print letters. Help your child learn to identify at least ten flowers that grow in your area. You might include: daffodils, daisies, roses, tulips, Trillium (don't pick! They are protected! Take a picture of one blooming and mount that), Black-eyed Susan, Sweet William, Creeping Phlox, or Day Lillies. Magnetic photo albums are not good for your precious pictures. They contain acids that over time will cause your photos to fade. Put good pictures in acid-free, lignon-free archival photo albums, only. But for a home-made picture book for your young child, magnetic albums are perfect! They are cheap, and the pages are sturdy.

Press Flowers: There are many ways you can press and preserve real flowers. The simplest is to use an old phone book. Slip a flower about a third of the way into the book. Turn a few pages, insert another flower. Keep turning pages and inserting flowers until all are in the book. You will want to remove excess stems and leaves as you do this. Then set the phone book on a sturdy surface, and stack a bunch of weights – bricks or books – on top. Wait about four days or more, depending on the thickness of the flowers. When you remove them, they should be flattened and somewhat dried, ready for mounting into your home-made flower book.

If you don't have a photo album, you can use old newspapers. Another method is to press the flowers between two sheets of wax paper using a warm iron. This takes a while, you have to replace the wax paper and keep pressing to get the moisture of the flower, but then you can make your flower book in two days instead of four or five.

Paper Blossoms: use a couple of small, dead branches that you gathered on your morning walk. Set out colored tissue paper scraps and glue. Show child how to shape a tissue scrap over his finger, then put a dot of glue at the fingertip, and stick the "blossom" somewhere on the branch. Continue adding blossoms until the branches are beautiful. Display in a small vase on the dining table.

Magnetic Letters: Using small magnetic alphabets (the kind sold in grocery stores, about an inch big) and a cookie sheet. Have child place the letters on the metal cookie sheet. (If you have the cheap aluminum cookie sheets, magnets won't stick. They work on the sturdier tin or steel cookware.) Have child spell his name, or spell out "Mommy". Or child might try putting all the letters in alphabetic order.

Plant Spring Bulbs: You'll need a trowel for you and your child, a box of bulbs, and a douse of patience. Bulbs can be planted in northern states as soon as the ground is thawed enough to dig. Directions for planting are posted on the "M is for Mommy" blog post, or google for directions specific to your area. Try hostas, day lilies, or whatever grows best where you live.

Mosaic Flower Pot Gift: This craft might make a nice gift for a grandmother or aunt, or let your child give it to you. You need a clay flower pot, some tub grout, and some broken bits of ceramic tile or pretty stones, shells, and gems. Spread old newspaper or a plastic drop cloth over the table (or do this outside!). Spread a thick layer of grout over the pot. Press bits of broken tile, shells, gems and pretty stones into the grout. When the area is covered, fill in any cracks with more grout. Allow to dry, then remove excess grout from decorations with a damp sponge. When it is thoroughly dry, transplant some flowers into it and display. Be careful when using broken tiles – some may have razor-sharp edges. Let your child wear gardening gloves, or examine the shards first yourself and toss any that are dangerous.

A simpler version of the mosaic flower pot – especially if you have a younger preschooler – use

tissue paper and watered glue and a plastic cup. Child attaches tissue to the cup with a paintbrush, brushing the watered glue over the cup and paper and overlapping the paper to create a mosaic effect. Only apply to the outside of the cup. Let it dry completely, then apply more glue over the surface of the paper mosaic. Dry, then plant a few seeds in it.

Hand Print Pot Holder Gift: Buy cheap, plain potholders at a dollar store, and some fabric paint in a color that will show up well on the potholder. Practice on paper first, spreading fabric paint on your child's hand and getting a good hand print. Then, when you got the feel for how much paint to use, press your child's paint-covered hands onto the pot holder. With fabric paint, you can add his name, the date, and anything else you wish. Allow to dry completely. While making a set for the grandmas, make another one for yourself! You can also make a foot-print set, if your child is young enough that his foot will fit on a potholder! Do this messy craft outside, if possible.

Butterfly Card: Use a large sheet of white paper and fold in half. Then open it again. Squirt drops of paint on one half. Fold paper in half and press on it with hands. Press and rub in several directions to squish the paint around. Let dry. Then cut out a shape of a butterfly from the finished painting. Let child glue on short pieces of pipe cleaner for antennae, buttons for eyes, or sequins onto the wings for decorations. Help the child print "Happy Mother's Day" or just his name.

Hand Print Apron or Wall Hanging: This is much like the hand print pot holders, only you will add a poem to the project. There are several to choose from. Again, you will spread fabric paint on your child's hands and help him to place his hands on a plain apron or length of fabric. Allow to dry. Then you will write the poem you chose on the fabric with fabric paint. If making a wall hanging, machine or hand sew a hem top and bottom and push a small dowel rod through the hem to make it sturdy and hang nicely. Then tie a piece of yarn or twine to the ends of the upper dowel rod to hang it on the

wall. If making an apron, letter the poem above or below the hand prints, allow to dry before using.

Hand Print Poems: (choose one)

This is the hand
You used to hold
When I was only
Four years old. (insert your child's age).

I miss you when we're not together
I'm growing up so fast
See how big I've gotten
since you saw me last?
As I grow, I'll change a lot,
The years will fly right by.
You'll wonder how I grew so quick -
When and where and why?
So save this print in a safe place
And take it out each year.
The memories will come back of me,
When I was small and dear."

My dirty little fingerprints
I've left on every wall,
And on the drawers and table tops,
I've really marked them all.
But here is one that won't rub off,
I'm giving it to you,
Because I am so thankful
For a mother just like you!

This is to remind you
When I have grown so tall,
That once I was quite little
And my hands were very small.

I know you often wipe some away
But these handprints were made to stay
So keep them forever, a treasure they'll be
A special "I love you" for you, from me.

Water Play: It probably isn't warm enough for a splash pool yet! Fill a tub with water and let child sink and float small toys in the water. Set out empty dish soap bottles to squirt the water. Set out a water wheel toy, or toy dishes. If it is cold, let child play in the bathtub. If it is rainy and not thundering, dress up in rain coat and boots and splash in the puddles.

Window Painting: Mix a bit of clear dish soap into tempera paint. Give child several colors of paint and different brushes. Help child to paint some flowers and hearts on a large picture window (on the outside) or a large glass patio door. Let dry, and let it decorate the window for a few days. Afterwards, you can either hose it off with a strong hose, or scrap off the paint with a razor blade – don't let the child do that part!

8 Seed Mosaic: Draw a thick letter 8 on sturdy paper or cardboard. Help child to count out 8 of various different seeds and small objects. Count out eight pieces of dried corn, eight dried lima beans, eight pieces of pumpkin seeds, eight raisins, eight tiny paper hearts – whatever you can find. Then your child will glue all of the eight objects onto his cardboard 8. After it dries thoroughly, display in your calendar area.

M Sorting Activity: Gather items that begin with the sound of “Mmmm” and a few things that do not begin with an “m” sound. Have child sort the items by beginning sound. Include marshmallow, mushroom, magnifying glass, marble, map, magazine, meat (use a picture), and a toothbrush, ball, comb, and

book. Write a “M” on a sheet of paper, child puts the Mushroom on the “M” paper. Have a blank sheet of paper, and child puts the toothbrush there. If this is too easy for your child, then do “ending” sounds. A Comb would go on the “M” because it ends with the sound of the letter m, since the “b” is silent.

Pink Hearts: help your child make another mother's day card, perhaps to give to a grandmother, or aunt (or step-mother). Cut a small supply of hearts from pink and red construction paper. Older children can cut their own heart shapes. Set out doilies, glitter, and glue. Fold a white card, and let child decorate it with the hearts and embellishments. Let dry! Then help child to write his name inside the card. Letter “Happy Mother's Day” to the card for your child.

Pink Fingerpaint:

Freezer paper makes suitable fingerpaint paper, if you don't have any. Squirt a bit of red and white tempera paint onto paper. Let child fingerpaint, mashing the paint around, to discover different shades of pink. Add more paint as necessary. Let finished painting dry, then hang in the calendar area.

M is for Mommy Week: Monday

Date: _____

Concepts: Mm, 8, heart, pink

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Practice vocabulary words & concepts. Teach "I really love my mother". Introduce heart shape, color pink and number 8. Count eight hearts on the wall.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Mothers & Babies puzzle.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, & books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Nature Flower Walk. Bring home a couple of small dead branches for pm project
11:15	Project: Press real flowers
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash hands
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: blow bubbles
4:30	Table Time: worksheet 1, recognizing letter M
4:45	Project: Paper blossoms
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed

M is for Mommy: Tuesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Mm, 8, heart, pink

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Review concepts, vocabulary words, teach "Dear Mother" poem.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Put magnetic letters on a cookie sheet. Have child try to put them in order, or spell his name.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Plant some bulbs. Let child help dig the hole – and bury the bulbs.
11:15	Project: Mosaic Flower Pot Gift
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Table Time: worksheet 2, M sounds
4:45	Project: hand and foot print pot holders
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

M is for Mommy: Wednesday

Date: _____

Concepts: Mm, 8, heart, pink

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Songs. Teach "Mommy is the One I Love". Review.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Make "m" shape out of pink playdough.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Swing and climb. Can your child pump a swing yet? Help him learn.
11:15	Project: Butterfly Mother's Day Card
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: Sandbox Play. If you have old plastic flowers, let child play with them in sandbox, creating his own flower garden.
4:30	Table Time: worksheet 3, beginning M sounds
4:45	Project: Handprint apron or wall hanging with poem
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journals
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

M is for Mommy: Thursday

Date: _____

Concepts: Mm, 8, heart, pink

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary; Songs. Teach "Mother's Day Bouquet". Review other songs
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Lacing Cards (Make a lacing card for a large letter M)
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: water play.
11:15	Project: Paint Window or Sliding Glass Door.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: catch and throw a ball. Practice kicking it.
4:30	Table Time: Worksheet 4, recognizing the number 8
4:45	Project: 8 Seed Mosaic
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

M is for Mommy Week: Friday

Date: _____

Concepts: Mm, 8, heart, pink

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity; Vocabulary words; Songs.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Sorting. Gather items in a basket. Child sorts the ones that start with "M" sound. Include marshmallow, mushroom (unless allergic), magnifying glass, toothbrush, etc.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside: Go to a playground.
11:15	Project: Pink Hearts
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: have an outdoor tea party, weather permitting.
3:30	Outside: Child can play outside with baby dolls, or in the sandbox.
4:30	Table Time: worksheet 5, connect the dots.
4:45	Project: Pink Fingerpaint
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher, Journal
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.