

# ArtExpress

## All Around the Sites

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### Classroom Activities

**Sue Craig** (Avon Preschool Blended Program, Avon, Illinois) involved her classroom children in learning about baby chicks. An incubator with eggs had been placed in the classroom. Children checked the eggs each day for any hatchlings. Supporting this real experience, Sue planned and provided for a wide variety of related activities and materials.

**Visual Art:** The children drew chickens, made “Chick” books, and read books about chicks. They made baby chicks out of ping pong balls. Children painted with feathers and glued yellow cotton balls to their chick drawings.

**Music and Art:** Each child created a chick necklace (marker drawing, cut out and yarn attached). Each child selected a favorite number (1-5) and this number was drawn on their necklace. The following chant was sung as children with the corresponding number did the motions.

*Little chick, little chick, number one,  
Flap your wings and have some fun.  
Little chick, little chick, number two,  
Reach way down and touch your shoe.  
Little chick, little chick, number three,  
Nod your head for us to see.  
Little chick, little chick, number four,  
Jump up high, right off the floor.  
Little chick, little chick, number five,  
Dance around and do the jive.*

**Math Matching Game:** Rubber chicks with numbers on

the bottom were placed in the sensory table and the children were invited to play a match-the-number game. Plastic eggs were filled with different items. Children shook them to compare sound and find sound matches.

**Math Game and Graphing:** The children went on a chick hunt. Paper chicks were hidden throughout the classroom for the children to find. Children counted the chicks and Sue created a graph to show how many chicks each child found. By counting the chicks found on the graph, they could tell that some of the chicks were still missing. The hunt was continued until all the chicks were found.

**Math and Science:** The children crushed whole kernel corn with small hammers and rolling pins, making home made chicken feed for the chicks. They made comparisons between home made and commercial chicken feed and graphed the results.

**Science:** Textures were discussed. The children decided egg shell was hard. An experiment was done to see if the egg shell would soften by placing it in vinegar.

**Science and Art:** Egg shells were soaked in food coloring and used in gluing masterpieces. Egg yolks were mixed with food coloring. Children discovered new colors and used the egg yolk paint to draw and paint.

### Share Spring Celebrations



## from Around the World

**Mother's Day** was first celebrated in the spring in ancient Greece. During the 17th century, England honored mothers on "Mothering Sunday," celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. In the United States (1872), the idea of Mother's Day was dedicated to peace and as a way to heal the scars of the Civil War. Here are some gift ideas for children to give their mothers on their special day.

- After bringing a spring bouquet of flowers into the classroom, displaying reproductions of art work with flowers, and planning walks to the park or in the neighborhood to observe spring flowers, children can plant flower seeds in the classroom to later give as a Mother's Day gift.
- Provide art materials and invite children to draw or paint their favorite flowers. Children might even like to take sketch pads along with them to the park.

Display the children's artwork along with adult artwork to create a beautiful spring garden on the classroom wall.

**May Day** is celebrated on May 1st around the world in different ways. It is a festival of happiness, joy, and the coming of summer. Use the observance of May Day as a rich source of multicultural activities that can complement your May curriculum. Children can:

- Gather spring flowers, place them in handmade paper May baskets and hang them on doorknobs of relatives and friends. (Traditionally after the May baskets were hung, the children knocked on the door and ran away, leaving the flowers as a surprise.)
- Dance around a maypole and sing:



*Ring Around the Maypole*  
Tune: "Ring Around the Rosie"  
(Join hands with others and move in a circle.)

*Ring around the maypole,  
Pocket full of roses.  
Ribbons, ribbons,  
We all fall down!  
(Drop to floor.)  
--Toni Lenhardt*

- Sing May Day songs such as:

*May Basket*  
Tune: "Did You Every See a Lassie?"

*Did you ever see a May basket,  
A May basket, a May basket?  
Did you ever see a May basket  
That looked so good?  
I worked for hours,  
Then filled it with flowers.  
Did you ever see a May basket  
That looked so good?  
--Jean Warren*

**Cinco De Mayo** is celebrated on the fifth day of May. It is a commemoration of the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. This battle became a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. Today Cinco De Mayo is celebrated with parades, mariachi music, dancing, and feasting. The following are some classroom art activity ideas to try as you celebrate this Mexican spring holiday.

- Cut out tissue paper and create fiesta banners.
- Make paper bag piñatas and cover with tissue paper.
- Create Ojo de Dios (God's Eyes). Use crossed sticks (found or craft sticks) and weave over and under them with a variety of colorful yarn.



## Make Your Own Soy Crayons

Most crayons are made from paraffin which is a petroleum product. Environmentally-friendly soy crayons are made from 85% soybean oil and other natural ingredients. Soy crayons are biodegradable and are made from renewable resources. They do not contain hazardous materials or other chemicals. Follow the recipe below and make your own soy crayons.

### Materials:

- 1 quart pan
- Hot plate
- Muffin tin or candy mold
- 1 1/2 cups fully hydrogenated soybean oil (soyflakes)
- 4 teaspoons color pigment

### Procedures:

- Fill pan with the hydrogenated soybean oil.
- Place pan on the hot plate on the low setting.
- Allow to solid oil to liquify while stirring occasionally.
- Add 4 teaspoons of color pigment after the oil is liquified. Stir until it is evenly distributed in the oil.
- Remove the pan from the heat.
- Pour into muffin tin or candy molds.
- Cool 1/2 hour.
- Remove crayons.

Materials can be ordered from: Tim Nelson/Brian DeCrain, Ag Curriculum Resource, College of Agriculture, Mail code 4414, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901. Phone: (618) 536-7733.

Commercially made soy crayons are also available at major retail outlets all over the country. The Prang Fun-Pro Crayons can be found at K Mart, Wal Mart, OfficeMax, and Target. For more information visit the website at [www.prang.com](http://www.prang.com)

## Child Data

**S**pring child data forms and the *Family Questionnaire* have been sent and will be due at the end of May.

## On-going Technology Support

Upcoming technology support day will be **Friday, May 17, 2002** in our computer lab (HH 37B). EAO staff will be available to answer technology questions about scanners, digital cameras, video importing, peripherals, slide shows using *Kid Pix*, *iMovies*, or *HyperStudio* and much more. Expressive arts software will also be available for preview. Contact Judy, Carol, or Merriam (1-309-298-1634) if you plan to attend or want to schedule another time. Let us know what your technology support needs might be.

