

HEADS IN, HEARTS IN

Flower Arrangements

Instructions for Set-Up

Supplies

- ❑ “Guide for Families” handout
- ❑ Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- ❑ Four to six 5-quart or larger colanders with large holes
- ❑ 4–6 half-circles of plastic foam (Styrofoam) that will fit under a colander
- ❑ A variety of artificial flowers (approximately 10–20 flowers per participant)
- ❑ A variety of items that will fit into the holes of each colander such as straws, feathers or chenille stems
- ❑ 4–6 medium-sized baskets
- ❑ Display table

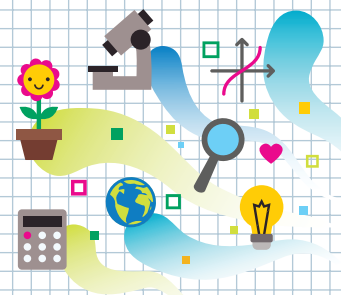
Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Place the plastic foam under each colander.
- ▶ Remove tags, leaves and any other items from the artificial flowers.
- ▶ Put the flowers in baskets next to the colander on the display table, as well as any additional materials (feathers, straws, chenille stems).





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Flower Arrangements Guide for Families

Learning Objectives

What you need to know:

Fine motor development and **hand-eye coordination** are important skills for developing early writing. Children develop fine motor skills when they use their fingers to manipulate toys, food or other objects. Young children need lots of opportunities to practice activities that will strengthen the muscles of the hands and require the eyes and hands to work together. This practice will prepare them to be able to complete self-care tasks such as buttoning a shirt or pulling a zipper as well as learning how to write.

What you will do and learn:

Children will develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination by poking artificial flowers through holes in a colander into plastic foam. Encourage their efforts and help them keep trying, even if it is challenging.

Instructions

1. Choose a colander and basket of flowers.
2. Encourage children to use their senses of touch, sight and smell to explore the flowers. Ask, "What colors do you see? What does the flower feel like? What is the texture of the flower? (Is it rough, soft, smooth, silky or bumpy?) Does it smell like a real flower?"
3. Encourage the child to pick up a flower and poke the stem through a hole in the colander and into the plastic foam.
4. Repeat this action until you run out of flowers or the colander is full.
5. Remove each flower, one at a time, and place them back into the basket.