



A collection of tips
from teachers

Mother's Day Ideas



Mother's Day

Parents are especially pleased with a gift that is personal to the child. A photo, a handprint, a child's writing or drawing - these are always very welcome.

Take a digital or regular picture of each child, and have the children make frames with popsicle sticks or construction paper. Decorate the frame.

Do a handprint in paint or an inkpad.

Sometimes you get discouraged
Because I am so small
And always leave my fingerprints
On furniture and walls
But every day I'm growing -
I'll be grown some day
And all those tiny handprints
Will surely fade away
So here's a little handprint
Just so you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
When I was very small
Put a date here
Love, put child's name here



A Living Gift

"The children make a little planter for mother's day. They paint a coffee filter with water paint, and I put it between two clear plastic cups. I make a hole through the cups and filter and tie a ribbon through it. Then, they put their plants in it."

"I've had the kids plant marigolds in little clay plant pots for Mother's Day. One year I had the students decorate clay pots with acrylic paint using q-tips. We used yellow for the flowers and green for the stems and leaves. You could also use some red. They did a very simple plain pattern. They turned out very pretty."

"We sponge paint 2-3 flower shapes around the sides of the pot and then I glue gun a button in the center of each flower. It's very easy and looks cute."

"Our class made flower pots using small yogurt containers. We covered them with small squares of coloured tissue paper and painted over the squares with clear acrylic paint. It's very easy and satisfying for the kids. (and cheap to make) Then we planted marigold seeds in them. We're hoping they will almost be budding by Mother's Day.



A Flower for Mom

"I had 'mug shot' style photos that I had taken of each child at the beginning of the year. I cut around their heads in a circle. They glued their photo onto a piece of yellow construction paper then cut around the picture leaving a small border. This is the center of a flower. They then chose a colour to make their flower. They glued the photo onto the center of the coloured paper, drew petals around it and cut out the flower. I gave each a strip of green paper left over from the paper weaving to make a stem and leaves.

"I glued the drawing in the top left corner of the weaving, the flower in the top right, the heart in the bottom left and the handprint in the bottom right - but I did not glue them all lined up but rather at angles and in some cases, overlapping each other. Then the project is laminated."

A Mom Is Like A Flower

A mom is like a flower
On a sunny summer day.
You'd pick her in a minute
If you could have your way.
A mom is like the sunshine;
She warms your heart each day

And makes you feel like smiling.
It's just her special way
Of saying that she loves you
The way that mothers do.
A mom is very special.
That's why you love her, too.



<http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/mom/card.html>

Mother's Day cards to print and colour.

Buy white carnations, and make them all different colours by putting the stems in water with food colouring. Let the children do this experiment and then take Mom a carnation that he/she has coloured.

Cut out a large heart. Trace the child's arms and hands from the elbow and cut them out - glue the arms behind the heart. Print on it 'I love you THIS much!'.

Have each child trace and cut out lots of pastel coloured handprints (the more the better!). Glue them on a circle with the fingers pointing outward like a wreath. Glue a photo of the child in the middle.

The following is, I believe, from a song by Shel Silverstein.

<http://www.nellieedge.com/pdf/freepoetry/LoveLots.pdf>

Have your students each dictate a recipe to you of how their mom cooks something. You might ask them what's their favourite dish that their mom fixes for them, then ask them how she cooks it. Combine all the recipes into a cookbook and publish one for each mom.

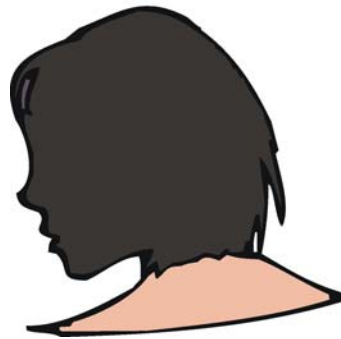


"Fold the large size construction paper in half to make a card. On the front let the child draw his/her face. For some students, you might want to have a pre-drawn circle there to give them a starting point. Have the words: "I Love You" written over the head and "from my Head" written under the head. Trace each child's bare foot on another coloured paper and cut out toes and all. Glue to the inside of the card with the toes pointing up forming a vase. Don't glue each toe down and kind of ruffle them a little for a 3D effect. Have the students draw stems and flowers coming out of the toes! Underneath continue the message from the cover: to my toes! Love, _____"

Silhouettes for Mother's Day

I Have a Little Shadow

I have a little shadow
that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of it
is more than I can see.
So I put it on the wall
and the teacher drew around it,
I cut it out and pasted it -
and that is how you found it.
I put it in an envelope
and gave it to you today,
To tell you that 'I love you'
and a 'Happy Mother's Day'!



"I take an action picture of each child on the playground. The kids make frames using coloured popsicle sticks and pieces of shaped wood (hearts, stars etc.) I put a solid piece of cardboard on the back and attach a thin magnet. It makes a nice picture to hang on the refrigerator."

"We're making bottle gardens for Mom. Cut 2 oval holes in a clean 2 litre plastic soft drink bottle, fill with earth to the bottom of the holes and plant the plants. I went to Wal-Mart and got enough impatiens for each child to have 2 plants. Impatiens are good because they spread. We'll put some curly ribbon around the neck and make a card. These can also be used as a hanging garden."

"Each child got to choose 3 artificial flowers which were then attached to 3 writing pens with floral tape. I dyed rice various shades of brown for the 'soil' in a little plastic pot to stick the pens in. So the pen becomes the 'stem' and it makes a cute desk ornament, and useful, too!"

"Read the book *I'll Love You Forever* or *I'll Always Love You*. Provide the students with heart-shaped pages with the following sentence starters:

- My mom always says _____.
- My mom cooks the best _____. This is how she makes it. _____
- My mom really loves _____.
- My mom and I like to _____.
- My mom's favourite clothes to wear are _____.
- My mom is beautiful because she _____.

Have students complete the sentence starters and cut out the shapes. Provide them with a booklet cover using the same heart shape with "I'll Love You Forever" or "I'll Always Love You" printed on it. Have them decorate the heart and add ribbons or lace to the edges. Don't forget the name and the date, for this is sure to be a collectable."

Dear Mommy, I think of all The things you do, And then I know Why I love you. You make me breakfast, You wash my clothes,	You take me places I want to go. You teach me things, You read to me. You help me become What I want to be. You sing me songs,	You hold me tight. You hold my hand In the dark, at night. In all the world I know it's true, There is no mommy Just like you!
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"We make a book for Mother's Day:
On the left side of the page type the following text to be completed by the student:
My mom is the most wonderful mom in the world! Her name is _____. She's pretty as a _____. She is _____ years old. She has _____ eyes and _____ hair. She weighs _____ pounds and is _____ tall. Her favourite food is _____. In the good old days when she was little, she used to _____. I think Mom is funny when she _____. But I know she's really angry when _____. I wouldn't trade my Mom for _____. I love my Mom because _____.
Happy Mother's Day, Mom! Love, _____ "



"We paint the medium sized terra cotta pots (Michaels) and then plant flowers in them. We also make a Mother's Day book including poems, MOTHER (words describing their mom--i.e. magnificent, observant, tired, helpful, energetic, real), and information about their moms...age, height, weight, best thing about their moms, etc."

"Last year we had a tea for Mother's Day. The children made little corsages out of coffee filters. You just take as many white coffee filters as you want thickness of the flower. Stand a pencil in the centre and gather the filters up around it. Pull out the pencil, and twist the centre and tie with a rubber band. I got that glitter paint in red, orange and yellow and the kids dipped the tips of their flowers into their color of choice. They cut little green leaves and glued to the back. We hot glued a little pin clasp and added a little piece of satin ribbon."

"We have been working on interesting language, so we are going to do an acrostic poem for MOTHER.

I have a form that is landscape direction with just the letters of 'Mother' in a fancy font, followed by lines (like this):

M _____
O _____ (etc.)

We work on drafts first. Each child writes his/her own. Then after a conference, each child prints a final copy. Then we paint rainbows using watercolours and light colors on a 9 x 12 white going the landscape direction. I make a transparency of the final copy of the poem, lay it over the rainbow, attach it on the edges with tape, and make a black construction paper frame for the whole thing."

"I trace a whole-body shape of each child. Then the child puts in the hair, face and clothing, and colours it. They are very cute!"



A Book For Mother

Turn several sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 paper sideways and fold in half. The students write several sentences on each page. They complete a rough version and then copy onto the good booklet.

The pages are:

1. My mom's favourite colour is _____. I know this because _____.
2. My mom's favourite television show is _____. This show is _____.
3. My mom's favourite food is _____. She also likes _____.
4. I like my mom to cook _____. This is how she makes it.....
5. My mom's pet name for me is _____. I like it because _____.
6. My mom looked really beautiful the day she _____. (Expand....)
7. My mom looked really funny the day she _____. (Expand)
8. Mom, I love you when _____.
9. I would like my mom to know _____

Usually for the last one the kids put 'that I love her'. Kids have said their moms get teary by the time they are done and I know they keep them.

"Here's an idea worth planning. I'm having my students write books about their moms using a web. The sections of the web are description of Mom, things she likes, things we do together, why I love Mom. The kids will write their ideas in each of those sections and then develop them into sentences. I'm teaching similes right now (using *Quick as a Cricket*) so that they can use more expressive writing. Then, I'll bind the books (plastic spines). Finally, we'll practice for an Author's Tea for Moms the week before Mother's Day."

Baby Food Jars for Gifts

1. The children can fill the jars with potpourri, then lace a coordinating coloured ribbon through a paper doily and tie it around the grooves of the lid. It makes a very pretty and simple gift.

2. Use 1" squares of pink, yellow or green tissue paper and glue them all over the jars. Paint over it with liquid glue and water mixture. Glitter the top in silver or gold glitter after you have dipped it in glue...drop in a votive candle.

3. We made paper weights: I used salt and had the kids chalk it with different colours. Each layer was placed in the jar and then they used tissue paper to decorate the lid.



Personal Gifts

Parents especially like a gift that is personal. Pictures of the child makes a good gift, and the student can make a frame for a picture. The student's writing is also a great gift or beautiful art work that has been framed. Make silhouettes of the children and frame them.

Jam!

"A class that I once volunteered for made a giant batch of strawberry freezer jam and each child got one baby food jar full. They then decorated strawberry baskets with ribbons and tissue and placed the jar of jam in the middle. They turned out so nice, a lot of mothers were impressed by the basket and the jam on the corner of their breakfast-in-bed trays. (The jam tasted really good too!) If anyone is still looking for a mother's day gift idea, this is a really good one. It's not as difficult as you may think..."

A Tea for Mom

Have an author's tea for Mother's Day! Have the students write and publish their best stories. You can print them up on the computer or have the students print a good copy and then have the students illustrate them. One teacher had the students go up to a microphone, introduce themselves and read the title of their books. When everyone had shared the titles, each student read his/her book to Mom.

You can have the class recite poems and/or sing some songs, and then have simple food.

"For a gift for Mother, the kids make a card shaped like a tea-cup. They decorate the cup front page with flowers, a self-portrait, etc. On the back of the back page they print:



A cup of tea to say thank you
For all the things you've done,
And wishes that the day will bring
You happiness and fun.
Happy Mother's Day!
Love,

Or:
Here's a gift for Mother's Day,
I'll try my best in every way,
But when you get upset with me
Relax and have a cup of tea.

Then you cut them out and glue up the sides, leaving the top open. I laminate these and place a tea bag inside."

"We decorate light switch plates. The light plate cover just looks like a pot of flowers that the children colour, cut, paste and then I laminate. There's a rectangular spot where the switch sticks through which get cut out."

"For Mother's day, I am compiling a cookbook of each child's favourite recipe. They write or dictate how some favourite food is made. They are very funny!"

"Draw and colour a large daisy with a round hole in the centre. Place the child's photo so the child's face is showing through the hole."

Flowers grow for all to see,
But this one grows for you - it's me!

You can put a strip of magnet on the back for a fridge ornament."

"Make a book for Mom. Have the children complete the sentences, one to a page, and then put them into a book with a cover."

When I was a baby, my mom
My mom looks beautiful when
My mom is the very best
My mom is happy when I
I love it when my mom
My mom and I like to



"I saw a bouquet of flowers made by tracing and cutting out children's hands on brightly coloured paper and rolling them loosely into sort of cone shapes, tighter at bottom and fastened to green pipe cleaners, the fingers forming the petals."

A Mother's Day Project

"Each child was given an 12 x 18 piece of coloured construction paper.

The following four projects were then completed and glued onto the paper and laminated.

(a) 5" x 8" white paper - children drew a picture of themselves and their mother doing something they like to do together. I then gave them a fine tipped black marker to trace over their drawing. When the tracing was complete I erased their pencil lines. They also used the black pen to write a sentence to go with the picture. These pictures are not coloured - they're left black and white. When done, they glued the picture to a piece of black construction paper and trimmed the black paper to about a one-half inch border.

(b) Using black paint each child did a handprint. When it was dry they trimmed around it and then printed their name and May 2002 along one edge.

(c) Using some shiny metallic art paper I had each child cut out a heart (I let them choose the colour). Using a permanent overhead marker I had them print 'love' and then their name (e.g. Love David).

(d) I had 'mug shot' style photos that I had taken of each child. I cut around their heads in a circle. They glued their photo onto a piece of yellow construction paper and then it was trimmed into a circle so there was a yellow border around the photo. This is the centre of a flower. They then chose a colour to make their flower. They glued the photo onto the centre of the coloured paper, drew petals around it and cut out the flower. I gave each a strip of green paper to make a stem and leaves.

"I glued the drawing in the top left corner of the weaving, the flower in the top right, the heart in the bottom left and the handprint in the bottom right - but I did not glue them all lined up but rather at angles and in some cases, overlapping each other. Then the project is laminated."

I make a Mother's Day card with a teapot like this... Take a heavier piece of construction paper (8x11) and fold in half vertically. On the front the kids print Happy Mother's Day and make a construction paper flower, etc. Then on the inside on the top half they print the following poem on white lined paper first and then glue it on...or if I have really low kids they just glue on a photocopy of the poem. On the bottom half they use a teapot tracer and cut out a teapot. I use old wallpaper pages for the teapot. They glue it on the card on the bottom and the two sides leaving the top open. Use lots of glue. I then securely (learned that lesson) tuck in a teabag. Then of course they write to and from. It's very cute and well received. Here's the poem

This is a gift for Mother's Day
I try my best everyday
But, if you need a rest from me
Relax and have a cup of tea.



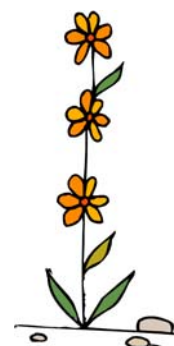
A Recipe Book

"Each mother receives a book with the recipes the children have written. Of course there are many different ways to use this idea. The students signed their names on the cover and dated it. I titled it 'How my mother cooks my favourite food'. Here is just one example of a recipe that appeared in last year's book:

Macaroni and Cheese...whole lot of cheese, a little bit of butter, noodles. Noodles are soft when they come out of the box. Put it in a pot on top of the stove. Cooks for 10 minutes. Put it in a bowl, sometimes with ketchup."

A Growing Card

"Some years we have made a long folded vertical card that has a flower on the first page, then a lo-o-o-ng stem down the next few folds and finally coming to an end on the last page. When it's all opened up, you see the whole plant. The caption reads, 'My love for you grows and grows.'"



"Here's a little project that we do for mothers' day, but it could be done for volunteers. We make flower pens, using cheap bic pens. We clip a blossom from a bunch of silk flowers and first tape the flower to the pen. The next step is to wrap, wrap, wrap, wrap the pen with green floral tape, working in a leaf clipping halfway down. They are adorable.

"For volunteers, you could use a clay flowerpot, stuffed with a piece of florist's foam. Put a dab of spanish moss on the top. Poke the pens in and it serves as a great holder. Decorate the outside of the pot with paint pens, adding a cute saying 'Thanks for helping us blossom'. The kids could also sign the pot with the pens."

"I read the story called *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch. The children copied 'Dear Mom, I'll love you forever. I like you because.....' and then wrote a sentence or more. (signed) Love, Child's Name. (Since this was a 'published' piece, spelling had to be accurate.) They did this on lined 8 1/2" by 11" paper.

"I mounted the writing onto pink or lavender construction paper and laminated it. Then, I used the hole punch to punch around the 'frame'. The children used narrow white ribbon to weave around frame. I made little bows and hot glued a small button to it and hot glued the bow in the top corner. They turned out great for everyone to see at the spring program and moms got an early Mother's Day present."

A Special Morning

"I teach the children how to make breakfast for their moms. We make placemats, cards, those tea bag cups, a flower pot light switch cover, a place card that says 'World's Greatest Mom' and then I teach them how to make cinnamon toast. With juice it's kid friendly."

Dear Mommy,
 I think of all
 The things you do,
 And then I know
 Why I love you.
 You make my breakfast,
 You wash my clothes,
 You take me places
 I want to go.
 You teach me things,
 You read to me.
 You help me become
 What I want to be.
 You sing me songs,
 You hold me tight.
 You hold my hand
 In the dark, at night.
 In all the world
 I know it's true,
 There is no mommy
 Just like you!



"The message is: 'Mom, my love for you just grows and grows!' We fold a 12 x 18 inch white or pastel paper in half lengthwise (like a hotdog bun). Match the ends and fold again. (There would be 4 equal pieces if opened.) Match the ends and fold again. (There are 8 equal pieces if opened.) Open and cut down the middle on that original fold. You now have two strips that are 6 x 18 inches. Tape these two pieces end to end. You now have a card that is 6 inches wide and 36 inches long!

"Re-bend the folds to make the card fold 'accordion' style. (Some children will need help with this part.) On the top section, the child will draw a blossom and write the first word of the message: **Mom** From the blossom, draw a stem that goes down one side of all the sections of the folded card. Add leaves randomly. Space the words of the message (*my love for you grows and grows*) on each section, to be read as the card unfolds and 'grows'. The card will 'grow' as it unfolds. The children can give Mom a plant or bulbs, etc., with the card."

"Every Mother's Day for the past 10 years, my own 3 kids have acted out this little song (and sang it, too) by using their own bodies to form all the letters. It has been an absolute, hilarious delight. It started when the 2 oldest (then ages 8 & 5) held their almost 1 year old sister between them to form the crossbar for the H in 'mother' and part of the E. As they've all gotten older (and BIGGER) the contortions have at times been more agile and sometimes difficult (try holding a NINE year old up in the air between 2 teen bodies!!). It has continued to be the delight of my Mother's Day. Now the question is....How long can they continue this?? This should prove v-e-r-y interesting! (They are now almost 19, 16, 10.)"

Books for Mom

"Last year we had a very successful author's tea for Mother's Day! The students were all seated in a row on chairs with a microphone in the middle. The moms were seated in a large semi-circle facing the students. One by one, the students went up to the microphone, introduced themselves and read the title of their books. Then, after that, they walked over to their mom and stood behind her. When everyone was finished, the teacher told the kids to sit with their moms and read their books to them. It was so nice. I'm going to do this in May. We will sing a song or recite a poem at the beginning and the end of the session."

I Love You When....

"My partner always does a copy and paste lesson on the computer for this. The children type 'I love you when ', and then they highlight it and copy it. They make an addition to the original sentence, make several returns, and then paste the sentence starter again.

"He usually expects 3 or 4 per child which are printed and then pictures added. Some are real tear jerkers! The children mount them on construction paper cards addressed to moms."

"I always have a Mother's Day Tea. I ask the mothers to come at 1:30 and the students are little gentlemen and ladies. The moms sit in their child's chair as we wait for all the moms to arrive. We start a short program at about 1:40. We sing a few favorite class songs, recite several poems, and each child reads something they wrote themselves to their moms. We then give our moms a small gift that we made. Next the kids serve their moms cookies and lemonade or ice tea. Kids and moms sit and chat for a short time. It's all over at around 2:10 p.m. I usually serve cookies, lemonade and iced tea. On the hallway bulletin board I have the kids draw a portrait of their moms. I also have them write their mom's first name on a card and attach it to the picture with no corrections. It's fun to look at the board and try to figure out who's who. The pictures always come out adorably."

"Our Mothers Day Tea is a huge (and expensive) ordeal but it is wonderful. Each child has a part or two and there are songs and whole class poems. We start with the history of Mother's Day - there are many parts. During one part of this the children give each mom a carnation. We have a few whole class songs, and whole class poems and then some poems that are in parts that a small group of children recite. All by memory. Some poems can have props and movements. The children serve their moms snacks and then they can go home with mom for the rest of the day (which is nice since it takes that long to clean up)! We transform the room into a Mother Wonderland - in other words, it barely looks like a classroom. We do many projects. A book in the computer lab, place cards and place mats. We decorate our boards with written work about mom...the list goes on and on. We make programs, somewhat formal invitations. The whole thing is about an hour."

"One of the favourite gifts that my child has given me is a live plant that she rooted in water and planted in a can that I replanted later in a bigger pot. It is still living, and I received it from my daughter in grade two."

Teachers give their ideas for Mother's Day gifts....

- I am having my students pick their best art painting and then I will frame it on black paper for Mother's day.

- I use the digital camera and take a picture then put it on a cut out of kids hand and laminate. We put a magnet on the back for the fridge.

- We are inviting the moms in for muffins and a little classroom visit. We are planting flowers for them and making a booklet. The booklet contains a picture of the child with his or her hand print. Then the child draws a picture of his or her mother and answers questions like, I love my mom because..... My mother can..... My favourite thing to do with my mother is.... You can get some really outrageous answers.

- It is fun to do a 'favorite recipe book' where kids write how to make the favourite food that mom makes for them.

- Candle holders from baby food jars and tissue paper. We glue pieces of tissue paper to the glass. Then put a little candle in it.

- Note pad holders made from foam. I got some cheap pads of paper and pens. The foam was made into a little notebook for the pad to go into. The kids decorated the outside with foam pieces and sequin.

- We've made stories on the computer and printed the text on index cards. Next the kids illustrate each page. Then we bind the pages with a book binder. Each page tells some thing nice about their moms. Like what their favourite food is or favourite activity. Add to the book, 'Mom's best recipe is ...' Have them tell about it, how to make it, etc.

- We have also planted marigolds during our plant unit and by Mother's Day we have plants to give our moms.

- This year we are going to make bookmarks out of foam. I am going to take pictures of my kids with my digital camera and have them glue their pictures to the book mark before they decorate it.

- We are making picture frames that the children will decorate with seashells. You can also use buttons to decorate the frames if you can't get shells....



- Bath Salts Recipe: In glass or metal container: 3 cups Epsom salts, combine 1 tablespoon glycerin with 2 drops food colouring. Stir glycerine mixture into Epsom salts. Add a few drops of perfume, stir until well blended. Package in small jars or smallest plastic ziploc baggies. If in baggy, bath salts can be stapled inside a card with 'Rub a dub dub, You deserve a soak in the tub!' poem..



- Fill a terra cotta flower pot with plaster -- set a pen cap in plaster while wet ... cover plaster with moss ... wrap flower around pen with florist tape, put pen in cap -- pretty table decoration, nice gift!

- I have the children paint portraits of their moms and attach this interview...My Mom: looks her best when _____, likes to nibble _____, cooks the best _____, likes to go to _____, is special because _____

- I've decorated 8 by 8 ceramic tiles with nautical pictures for Dads. The kids finger paint ocean and sky, glue on felt for boat, white triangle sail, fluorescent yellow sparkly little pom pom for sun, sponge paint white clouds. Then I hot glued rope around the tile to finish it, with enough loose at top for hanging.

"Here are some poems and songs from my Mother's Day Tea. The poems are just the ones we practice throughout the year. A favourite is 'Hot Dogs'."

<http://www.rrcs.org/Downloads/Hot%20Dogs%20Forever.pdf>

My class knows these by heart. We also sing some songs that we have sung all year. One is the 'Library Song' by Tom Chapin. Great song with actions. We also do 'A You're Adorable' and sing 'Love Grows' that has actions."

"I had every student bring in a copy of their favourite recipe. We are going to make them into a recipe book, complete with illustrations."

"I've had the students take self-hardening clay - the reddish kind looks nice - roll it into a palm sized ball, use a pencil (eraser end) to form a hole in it, then slide in several sprigs of dried flowers. When the clay hardens it contracts around the flowers. It is a very simple, earthy looking gift. We 'wrap' it by placing it in a paper cup with tissue paper."



"Last year my son made a recipe holder: it was a plastic cup with plaster of paris in it. In the plaster of paris was stuck a fork. There were also 2 or 3 flowers stuck in there too. On the fork was a recipe for the best mom. It had things like a teaspoon of strictness, a cup of loving, etc. The children thought of things their mothers had like loving, strictness, caring, laughter, etc., and they had another list of amounts (teaspoon, tablespoon, cup, pound, and because this is Canada she also had ml, l, kilograms, etc.) Each recipe was different. I still have mine on my window sill."

A Forever Bouquet - You could use this poem with some type of home-made flowers.

Dear Mom,
I will love you forever;
And forever you will be
The most wonderful mother,
You mean everything to me.

I thought of buying you flowers
In the usual way,
But I knew you would prefer
A FOREVER bouquet!



Mother's Day Flowers

These could be used with the poem above. Have the students colour coffee filters with markers. They do not have to be coloured in completely. Mist the filters with water and the colours will bleed together. When dry, gather the filter at the center and twist on a pipe cleaner for the stem. Leaves can be cut from green construction paper and threaded onto the stem. One leaf could say 'Happy Mother's Day' or 'I love you because...' and have the student complete the sentence. You could also have each student make 3 of these flowers, then cut out a photocopied vase and decorate it. Glue the sides and bottom of the vase onto a contrasting piece of construction paper and slide the 3 flowers into the top of it. Glue the flower stems down.

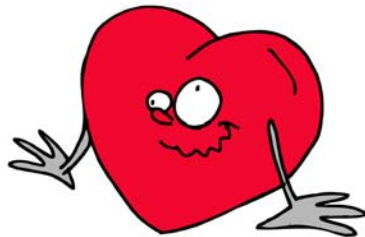
Thumb-body Loves You

Make a card by folding paper, then have each child put his/her thumb prints on the front of the card. Make a picture out of the thumb prints. You can make them into flowers and bees, by using the thumb print as the center of the flower and the body of the bees. You can add clouds in the sky and a tree or use your imagination. Then write on the inside 'Thumb-body loves you!'

Heart Brooch

Mix:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup warm water
- 1/4 cup salt
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon oil
- food colouring



Mix together the flour, water, salt, cream of tartar, oil, and food colouring. Stir over medium heat until smooth. Remove from pan and knead until blended smooth. Place in plastic bag or airtight container when cooled. To make brooch(es), shape into hearts, or roll out and use a heart shaped cookie cutter. Before totally dry, press pins into backs of hearts (buy the pins at a craft store). When the hearts are totally dry, paint them.

"The favourite gift the child can give is something the child has made, and it is even more appreciated if there is a photo attached or as part of the gift. A photo in a student-made frame is one of the projects I do with my class and the parents love it!"

"Write Mom a letter, or do a card insert. Start with the words 'I Love You Because' then write in the reasons."

"I go to the local plant nursery before Mother's Day and buy enough little flowering plants for my class. I also get small pots. The students decorate the pots with acrylic paint. I have also had them do a drawing on paper that fits the pot and colour it - Then it is taped on the pot and then covered with contact plastic."

To Mother

Every mouse
and bumble bee
Every bird
up in a tree
Every caterpillar
and lady bug
Loves to feel his mother's hug
Every bear
so fat and funny
Loves his mother
more than honey
Just as woodland
creatures do
Mother that's how
I LOVE YOU!



For My Mother

Here are flowers
Bright and gay
Just for you
On Mother's Day.
I must have been born
Under a lucky star
To have a mother
As nice as you are!

"I go to my local nursery and buy pansy plants - I try to make sure that I have enough that are blooming for every child. I like to buy the ones that are in individual pockets - they transplant better.

Then we decorate plant pots in class. I have painted coffee filters and put them between the clear plastic cups and put holes in the outer cup to thread ribbon through, or decorated the little clay pots with acrylic paint. We dabbed spots in blue or yellow for the flowers and green for leaves and the stem, using Q-tips. Sometimes I put a small button in the middle of the flowers with a glue gun. When these are dry we transplant the flower into the pot.

The children love to take these home to give Mom!"

"We make a bouquet of flowers made by tracing and cutting out children's hands on brightly coloured paper and rolling them loosely into sort of cone shapes, tighter at bottom and fastened to green pipe cleaners, the fingers forming the petals."

"We have a Mother's Day tea. We plan this far in advance, write lists of things to do, write special invitations and plan the menu. Each student writes a story about Mom, ending these sentences:

My Mom is

My Mom likes to

My Mom is happy when..... etc.

They practice reading their story. We practice manners! We decorate the classroom and make sure everything is neat and tidy. This is a very special occasion!

On the afternoon, we have a short program and the students sing and do choral speech. Then the students serve cookies and lemonade or iced tea. They read their stories to their Moms, and present Mom with a special card they have made. They show Mom around the classroom and tell about all the things that they have done and made.

The program ends with:

Mommy, Mommy,

Here are my gifts -

A special hug

And a great big kiss. (*Hug self, then blow a kiss.*)

It is a lot of work, but the parents love it!"



"I like to give photographs of the students for parent gifts. For Mother's Day, I take a special picture of the students - just the head with a plain background. I use my digital camera and then edit the pictures on my computer to the correct size and a circle shape. Then we make flowers with an empty circle in the center and petals around, and glue the photo into the center. They are very cute!"

Buy white carnations, and make them all different colours by putting the stems in water with food colouring. Let the children do this experiment and then give Mom a carnation that he/she has coloured.

"I have my students pick their best art painting and then we frame it on black paper for Mother's day."

Take a digital picture of the child. Glue it to a coloured cut-out of the child's hand and laminate. Put a magnet on the back for the fridge.

"We make fancy picture frames and put in a photo of each child. Sometimes we decorate the frames with buttons, sometimes seashells, pretty pebbles (oiled or varnished) or other outdoor collections."

"Have the students draw their Moms, with themselves beside. The Moms always appreciate this! We put them into nice frames made of popsicle sticks."

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/mom/mmomfoldcard.html>

Here is a cute card - 'Moms make children blossom'.

Mother's Day Song (*Are You Sleeping*)

We love mothers, we love mothers
Yes we do; yes we do.

Mothers are for hugging
Mothers are for kissing
We love you, yes we do.

(to go with a flower gift)

A mother's love
and tender care
makes happiness
bloom everywhere.



Mommy I Love You

Mommy, I love you
For all that you do.
I'll kiss you and hug you
'Cause you love me, too.
You feed me and need me
To teach you to play,
So smile 'cause I love you
On this Mother's Day.

Buy 6 inch clay pots for the children. Then have the children press their two hands onto paint and then put the hands on either side of the pot as though the hands are holding it. You will have to do this with most children. Put the name, date and grade on, too. Then spray with clear varathane or other fixant.

Plant the pots with pansies that are purchased or do the pots at least six weeks before Mother's Day and plant marigold seeds, the smaller short varieties. These bloom quickly from seed.

These can also be given to classroom helpers and volunteers with the label "Thank you for helping us grow!"

"We make plaster-of-paris molds of the Kindergarteners' hands and a card that says, "Mothers hold their children's hands for just a little while, their hearts forever!"

"We have special days for the parents..... Doughnuts with Dad in the fall, and Muffins with Mom. The parents are invited to the classroom and the class sings a few songs and we do some choral speech, then the children read to their parents. Children whose parents are not able to come that day go with another parent or treat me or another staff member as the parent."

"We always do this writing assignment for Mother's Day..."

My mother loves _____.

My mom and I like to _____.

My mom cooks the best _____. She puts in _____ and _____.

My mother always says _____.

My mom likes to _____.

My mom looks _____.

"I have my kids make a card for Mom. They fold a piece of construction paper in half to make the card. On white paper they draw and colour their head, making the eyes and hair as accurately as possible. This is cut out and glued to the front of the card. Then they take off their shoes and socks and trace their feet on white paper and cut these out, too. These are glued on the inside of the card but the toes are not glued and are curled a bit outwards.

On the front the words say, 'I love you from my head' and inside it says 'to my toes' - and then 'Happy Mother's Day! from _____'"

"My class wrote thank-you letters to their moms for all the wonderful things they do. We've put our illustrated letters into an online book and the parents get the original and they can go on-line and look at all the letters. We did a four squares outline - 3 things and the 4th the most important. We talked about what these might be and what is the most important thing might be - 'loving me' was what I was aiming for.

The first 3 things were usually put into one sentence..... Thank you for _____, _____ and _____. Most of all, thank you for _____."

A Book For Mother

"This could be for mother or father. Turn 8 1/2 x 11 paper sideways. I type and put the starting words on each page. The kids complete a rough version and then copy onto the good booklet.

The pages are:

1. My mom's favourite colour is _____

2. My mom's favourite television show is _____

3. My mom's favourite food is _____

4. I like my mom to cook _____

5. My mom's pet name for me is _____

6. My mom looked really beautiful the day she _____

7. My mom looked really funny the day she _____

8. I would like my mom to know _____

Usually for the last one the kids put 'that I love her'. Kids have said their moms get teary by the time they are done and I know they keep them."

- I am having my students pick their best art painting and then I will frame it on black paper for Mother's day.

- It is fun to do a 'favorite recipe book' where kids write how to make the favourite food that mom makes for them.

- We've made stories on the computer and printed the text on index cards. Next the kids illustrate each page. Then we bind the pages with a book binder. Each page tells some thing nice about their moms. Like what their favourite food is or favourite activity. Add to the book, 'Mom's best recipe is ...' Have them tell about it, how to make it, etc.

- We have also planted marigolds during our plant unit and by Mother's Day we have plants to give our moms.

- We are making picture frames that the children will decorate with seashells. You can also use buttons to decorate the frames if you can't get shells.....

- I have the children paint portraits of their moms and attach this interview...My Mom: looks her best when _____, likes to nibble _____, cooks the best _____, likes to go to _____, is special because _____

- A cute card with the wording: my love for you grows and grows and the card is long (vertically) and accordian folded, with a loooooong stem, and flower blossom at top. The card unfolds to reveal the flower 'growing'. You could do that with a hand-print flower and leaves ... a finger trail of paint for the llllooonnnnggggg stem!

