

"Helping Hands"

With Mother's Day just around the corner, this craft was designed for children to lend their "helping hands" at home...especially for mom. Using a small flower pot, a piece of foam, some brown paper, popsicle sticks and your child's handprints, something special will be blooming for all mom's this month. For more craft activities and ideas, please visit us at www.signingtime.com or www.signingtimekids.org

Materials Needed:

- Small flower pot
- A piece of Styrofoam
- Brown paper (tissue paper)
- Paint colors of your choice
- 6 or 7 popsicle sticks
- Colored construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Thin tip marker or pen

Book Link:

"Good Grief, It's Mother's Day!" by Alice Alfonsi

"I Love My Mama" by Peter Kavanagh



Time to create!

Step 1: Start by having your child choose the paint colors he/she would like to paint the flower pot. Your child might even like to add rhinestones or stickers to dress it up a little bit. Once the pot is decorated, set it aside to dry.

Step 2: Using the piece of Styrofoam, cut it to fit inside at the base of the flower pot. (This will be what holds the Popsicle sticks in place.) Next, help your child trace his/her handprint onto multiple colors of construction paper. Then cut them out. Use a pen or thin tip marker and have you or your child write onto the backside of each hand one thing he/she will do to be helpful to mom. Using the glue, place a dab on the end of each Popsicle stick and place one handprint onto each stick. You might even like to bend in some of the fingers to make the "I love you" (ILY) handshape!

Step 3: Now it is time to assemble the "Helping Hands" gift for mom. Begin by placing the Styrofoam into the base of the pot. Next, firmly press each stick into the Styrofoam until it is securely held in place. Finally, stuff with brown tissue paper the remaining space inside the pot. Fill up to the rim of the flower pot. Now you have a creative way of offering mom your "helping hands" as a unique gift on Mother's Day.

Note:

If you have more than one child doing this activity and you would like to combine your children's "helping hands," you might like to use a medium or large pot and increase the number of Popsicle sticks as well as some of the other supplies.

