

Handy Shamrock Art

(Calendar Craft)

March has arrived, and you know what that means! St. Patrick's Day is coming and if you're not careful, you'll be sure to get pinched! This month, your child will be creating a large shamrock using his/her handprints. This craft will be a fun way for your child to always remember to wear green! For more craft activities, please visit us at www.signingtime.com or www.signingtimekids.org

What do I need?

- February Calendar (backside/upside down)
- Green Tempera Paint
- Glitter (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Plate
- Foil (optional)
- Bowl of soapy water
- Towel
- 1 piece green or black construction paper
- St. Patrick's Day Poem
- Your child's hands!

Book Link

"St. Patrick's Day: Parades, Shamrocks, and Leprechauns" by Elaine Landau

Time to Create!

Step 1

For this craft, your child will be making a shamrock to represent St. Patrick's Day. Your child will be using the same handprint technique that was used for the month of February to make the heart. Your child will be making 3 hearts. Each heart will be one of the shamrock's leaves.

Step 2

When using the backside of your February calendar page, be sure the February calendar is upside down. Before you begin pouring your paint, explain to your child what he or she will be doing. Since this craft is a little bit more involved, you might like to start by walking your child through each step (without paint) by placing one of your child's hands onto the paper. Then using the other hand, explain how he or she will then overlap the finger area of the previous handprint. With the fingers overlapped, the two handprints together make a heart! When all three sets of handprints are on the paper, your child will have made a beautiful shamrock.

Step 3

When you are ready to begin painting, start by covering a plate with foil (the foil is used for easy clean up). Now you are ready to pour your green tempera paint onto the foil. Start by having your child place his/her hands into the green paint. For toddlers, it is recommended that you do one hand, wash it in your bowl of soapy water, dry that hand and then proceed to the other hand. If you find that your child would much rather take a bath in the soapy water, you could also try placing a sandwich size baggie over the



Step 3 (Continued)

paint covered hand(s) and then place a rubber band around the wrist(s) to hold the baggie in place, while the other hand is being used. Once your child has paint on his/her hands, place one hand (fingers together) at a time onto the paper. Using the other hand, overlap the finger area and make another handprint so it looks like a heart. Have your child continue doing this until he/she has made three shamrock leaves.

Step 4

To make the stem of the shamrock, have your child dip his/her index finger in the green paint and make fingerprints in the shape of a stem. Now your shamrock is complete!

*As an additional option you might like to have your child outline the shamrock with glue and then sprinkle some glitter over the glue to make a sparkling shamrock.

Why Did You Pinch Me?

I met up with friends while walking to school
They giggled and snickered, I felt like a fool!
In their eyes I saw mischief – a joke did I miss?
I wasn't quite sure why they behaved like this
Then all of the sudden, I got a pinch on my arm
They all started laughing – there was really no harm
Then a pinch on my side and pinch on my ear
I bet you can guess...I even got one on my rear!
Then finally they said were not trying to be mean
It's St. Patrick's Day and you're not wearing green!

