

Creative Crafts

FROM THE RIF MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

Since its founding, RIF has emphasized the importance of motivation in becoming a reader. Show young readers how much fun reading can be with these creative, crafty projects field tested by RIF volunteers.

CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Bumper Sticker/Bookmark Contest

Children of all ages can design and illustrate a bookmark or bumper sticker with a reading slogan. Invite community members to be judges or to donate prizes for the winners.

Shake, Rattle, and Read

Distribute or make instruments that the children can use to form a rhythm band to accompany read-aloud sessions. Many books are filled with rhythms and rhymes perfect for shaking and rattling. With some beans, two paper plates and a stapler, children can quickly make a great bean tambourine.

Grocery Bags

A RIF school had each child decorate a paper grocery bag with reading slogans or favorite story characters. Into each bag went a letter with tips for encouraging reading and an index card signed by the child who had designed the bag. Instructions in the letter asked whoever received the bag to take a moment to write on the index card why reading was important to them or what their favorite books were when they were younger. The bags were turned over to a local grocery store, which distributed them to shoppers.

Reading Gift Certificates

Let kids make coupons or gift certificates for an amount of time they promise to read with the recipient of the "gift."



Reading Quilts

Quilt making has a rich history in several ethnic traditions. Read stories from some of those traditions and have children make their own "reading" story quilt. For every book read, children can add another patch to the quilt or each child can simply design a patch, based on a favorite story, to be included in a large storybook quilt.

The Great Book Graffiti Wall

Unroll a long piece of butcher paper and give the children free rein to cover it with storybook characters and reading slogans.

Reading Place Mats

Give children the opportunity to scribble or otherwise illustrate their favorite stories on a large piece of paper, then laminate or cover with contact paper to create a colorful, personal place mat that will serve as a reminder of the joy of reading at snack or meal time. This works especially well with younger children.