

Game and Craft Ideas
For Use in the 2009 Children’s North American Mission Study

CRAFTS

Puppy Chip Clip

Note: Photo of this craft can be found on www.anniearmstrong.com/study.

You need: spring-type clothes pins, 7 mm google eyes, white and black felt, narrow red rick rack, small black fuzz balls or permanent marker (for nose), glue, snack-size bags of chips and index cards (optional)

You do: Before the session, cut out one white felt face and two black felt ears for each child you expect to attend. To make ear pattern, place two dimes side by side on paper. Draw an oval around them. Cut out oval. To make face pattern, place three quarters side by side on paper. Draw an oval around them. Cut out oval. Cut rick rack into 1-inch pieces.

During the session, give each child a clothes pin, one face, two ears, a 1-inch piece of rick rack, 2 google eyes, and glue. Direct children to use a dot of glue near the bottom (pinch end) of the clothes pin to glue down rick rack. Have children place a strip of glue along the clothes pin above and slightly overlapping the rick rack. Press down the face felt. Have children glue the ears onto the top sides of the dog face. Glue on the eyes and nose. Let the crafts dry on a flat surface.

Before departure, have children write, “Pray for Alaska” on an index card. Clip a bag of chips and the index card into the puppy’s mouth.

Glitter Snowflake Cards

Note: Photo of this craft can be found on www.anniearmstrong.com/study.

You need: colored card stock (cut in half with a paper cutter, if possible), plastic bottle caps (from juice, water, spice, or extract bottles), white acrylic paint, silver glitter, disposable snack plates

You do: Before the session, cover the work surface in papers. If desired, have children put on art smocks. Squeeze a quarter-size amount of white paint onto one plate for each child. Give each child two or three pieces of card stock and one bottle cap. Have children fold paper in half, so cards will fit in standard invitation envelopes. Direct children to hold bottle caps and press the flat bottom into the paint (like you would do a stamper), then press the cap onto the front of the card one or two times. Have children “reload” the cap with more paint and put several “snowflakes” on the card. Help children sprinkle silver glitter onto the wet paint. Allow the cards to dry in a flat place. Decide with your group how to use the cards, such as whether to send notes of encouragement to missionaries in Alaska or to donate them to a local nursing home (secure permission for a field trip if children want to help residents write notes to family members or if children want to personally deliver the cards). [Art: drop in photo of craft]

Sled Dog Prayer Reminders

Note: Photo of this craft can be found on www.anniearmstrong.com/study.

You need: white card stock, black or gray construction paper, glue, popsicle sticks (6 per child), thin-tip permanent markers

You do: Before the session, cut triangles with rounded corners out of white card stock, one for each child. Cut out two smaller black or gray oval or kidney-bean-shaped ears for each child. During the session, have the children glue on the ears. Have them write prayer requests on one side of the popsicle sticks. Direct them to glue on 6 popsicle stick “whiskers.” Have them color in eyes and a nose. [Art: drop in photo of craft]

Sparkly Snowy Lotion

You need: large mixing bowl, 1 12-ounce bottle cocoa butter formula lotion, 1 16-ounce better-quality hand lotion, 1 8-ounce body butter or cream (thicker consistency), 2 4-ounce pots of Vitamin E lotion, 1/4 cup of body oil (could be baby oil, cocoa butter oil, or coconut oil), extra fine glitter, thin spatulas, strong whisk, tablespoon, spoons, clean baby food jars, permanent markers and stickers (optional)

You do: If you’re working with a mixed group, separate boys and girls for this and the following activities. Girls will enjoy making lotion; boys will enjoy making a mud moose. Have girls help squeeze and scrape all the lotions and oils together into the mixing bowl. Have girls measure out 2 or 3 tablespoons of glitter and add it to the lotion mix. Have girls take turns using the whisk to stir together a fluffy, glittery ointment. Help each girl scoop several spoonfuls of lotion into her baby food jar. If time allows, use stickers or permanent markers to decorate the jar lids.

Mud Moose

Note: Photo of this craft can be found on www.anniearmstrong.com/study.

You need: news or scrap papers to line work surface, large mixing bowl, light colored construction paper (white or yellow), 1 cup clean dirt (not top soil), 1/2 cup water, 1 pair of old smaller-size flip flops, paper towels and/or sink availability

You do: Line the work surface with papers. Have boys help you mix dirt with water (they can use their hands to mix it) in large mixing bowl. Give each boy a piece of construction paper. Direct boys to make an imprint of one of the flip flops on the construction paper (tall way). Have boys dip their hands in the mud and press down on the top of the flip flop imprint to make antlers. Let the mud moose papers dry.

GAMES

Doggie Woggie

You need: chairs, blindfold, one section of newspaper

You do: Move chairs into a circle, one chair fewer than the number of children. Have children sit

in chairs, with one child standing in the middle. Blindfold this player and give him or her a rolled up newspaper. While you spin the player in the center around, have everyone trade seats. The blindfolded player finds a lap by tapping the newspaper against knees and legs. The blindfolded player unrolls the newspaper, places it in the lap of the child he or she has “found,” sits on the newspaper, and says, “Doggie Woggie.” The child being sat on tries to disguise her voice and says, “Woof-woof.” This can be repeated one more time. The blindfolded player tries to correctly guess which “Doggie” he or she is sitting upon. Then the “Doggie” becomes the blindfolded player in the center and the game continues.

Hidden Snowflake Relay

You need: 3-inch circles cut out of white craft foam, three for each team of 4-7 players, masking tape

You do: Before the session, cut circles out of white craft foam sheets and mark a start and turn line on opposite ends of the room with masking tape. Have children gather into relay teams of an equal number of players. Give the first player on each relay team three “snowflakes.” The players are to place one snowflake between the knees and one under each arm. They are to hop/run to the end of the room (turn line) and back, squeezing tight to keep the snowflakes in place. (No using hands!) Then, they pass the snowflakes to the next player in line. If a player drops a snowflake, he or she must return to the start line, re-place the snowflakes, and hop again.

Odd or Even?

You need: envelopes, individually wrapped LifeSaver or butter mints

You do: Before the session, place 4, 5, 6, or 7 mints in each envelope. Distribute the envelopes to the children. Explain that they are to count their mints silently and keep the number they have a secret, determining if their number is odd or even. As children play the game, they will go up to one another and guess “odd” or “even.” If the guesser guesses incorrectly, he has to give the person a mint. If the guesser guesses correctly, the person challenged must give the guesser a mint. The tricky part is, every time children add or subtract a mint, they have to recount and change their answer.

Use this game in any session which references a cold climate or a difficult challenge.

Icy Marble

You need: A low-to-the-ground container (must be wide enough to allow a child’s foot to easily get in and out and move around), ice cubes or very cold water, marbles of various sizes, towels

You do:

Fill the container with ice cubes, water, and marbles. Tell children to form a line and to each remove one sock and shoe so that one foot is barefoot. One at a time, allow the child to put his or her feet into the icy water and try to remove as many marbles as possible within a specific time period (e.g., 20 seconds). Once the child captures the marble with their toes, he or she should bring the marble out of the container and place it on the floor beside the container. (Place a towel or other water absorbing item beside the container on which the marbles can be placed.) After the allotted time, count the number of marbles and record that number for the child.

Continue until all children have had an opportunity to play. After playing the game, remind children that just as it was uncomfortable to play the game because of the coldness of the water, missionaries serve in places where it may be uncomfortable weather or difficult circumstances, but their desire is to share God's love wherever He places them.