

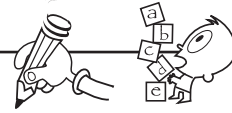
Valentine's Day



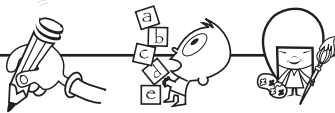
Cross-curricular activities

English

- Introduce or reinforce the sound for the letter 'v'. List or draw things with names beginning with the sound, especially the names of children in the class which may begin with 'v'. Identify names, such as 'David', which have a 'v' sound in them. Clap the number of syllables in the word 'valentine'. (Refer to page 85.) (*Language*)
- Collect and look at a variety of cards, including Valentine's Day cards, and discuss how many cards include rhyming verse. Read some of the verses and ask the children to identify the rhyming words. (*Literature, Language, Literacy*)

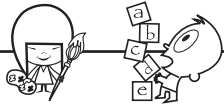


- Provide each child with a large blank letter 'v' shape. Ask them to draw, write or cut and paste words or pictures of things beginning with the sound 'v'. (*Language*)
- Provide a variety of tools such as crayons; glitter pens; paint, craft sticks, cotton buds and paintbrushes; sand or glitter and glue in squeeze bottles for the children to write v-v-v-v-v patterns on coloured card or paper. Encourage the children to put a double-curved top on each 'v' to create a heart from each in the pattern. (*Literacy*)

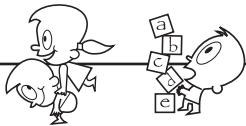
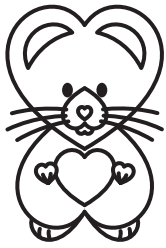


- Give each child a small shoebox to label with their name and decorate. Cut a small slit in the top to create as a postal box for all their Valentine's letters and cards. Provide heart-shaped sheets of paper in the writing corner for children to write Valentine's Day letters or draw pictures for friends in the class. (*Language, Literacy*)

Mathematics



- Use a variety of sizes and colours of heart shapes to create simple animal shapes. (*Measurement and Geometry*)
- Create fold prints from pre-cut symmetrical heart shapes. (*Measurement and Geometry*)



- Remove all the hearts cards from a deck of playing cards. Cut each in half and have the children match the halves. (*Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry*)



- Cut out many different-sized hearts, in many different colours, from card. Laminate or cover each with clear contact. Use to: sort from smallest to largest or largest to smallest; place groups of hearts in numerical order; sort by colour; count the number in each group; decide which colour group has the most or least hearts; create patterns of hearts by colour and size etc. (*Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability*)
- Ask the children to place the correct number (1 to 10) of heart-shaped candies on a heart-shaped number card. The cards can then be placed in the correct sequence. (*Number and Algebra*)



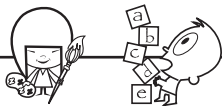
Society and environment



- Spend time finding out and telling the children their addresses and phone numbers. Have them practise saying them aloud. Make a copy for the children to access in the room so they are able to send a card to or call their favourite 'classroom valentine'. (Obtain parental permission first.)

- After writing and addressing cards or letters, visit the post office to buy stamps and post them.

Technology (and design)



- Provide materials for the children to plan, design and make a Valentine's Day card.

- Use a digital camera to take a picture of each child's mouth as he/she blows a kiss. Print out and display in the classroom. Have the parents and/or children guess who is blowing kisses at them.



- Visit <http://www.abcya.com/kindergarten_computers.htm> for online games.

Valentine's Day

Science



- Children use their senses to learn about different textures. Cut out different sizes of hearts from sandpaper. Tape them securely to a table and lay a sheet of white paper over them. Use the sides of different coloured crayons to make a pattern of rubbings on paper.

- Investigate the job the heart does in the body. Feel the heart beating, counting the beats, before and after exercise. Demonstrate how the heart pumps blood by putting red-coloured water inside a clear balloon. Put a straw in the opening and tie off loosely. Squeeze the balloon gently so that coloured water pumps out, showing how the heart works in our bodies.



Visual arts



- Create a beautiful flower using hand prints or hand cut-outs to give as a special 'valentine'.
- Provide wool or ribbon; red, white and pink heart-shaped beads or small heart shapes cut from construction paper (with a hole punched at the top); or pasta shapes dyed red, white or pink. Have the children thread heart necklaces to give as a gift.
- Cut two identical heart shapes from red felt for each child. Sew together using gold thread, leaving an opening at the top. Let the child decorate them using puffy paint, glitter, bows, fake jewels etc. When dry, fill with sweets to give as a gift.

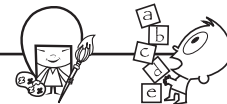


- Have each child cut out two heart shapes. On the front of one, write 'Do you know how much I love you?' On the second heart write 'This much!'. Cut a long 10 centimetre-wide strip of light card or paper. Use the strip to measure the length from the child's left-hand fingertip to right-hand fingertip with arms outstretched. Fanfold the strip, then glue one heart to each end. Close up.
- Mix together PVA glue, shaving cream and red tempera paint to finger paint a sheet of paper. Cut out heart shapes from the puffy creations.
- Place small tissue paper heart shapes on a sheet of paper painted with vinegar. Let it dry, then peel off hearts to reveal a beautiful heart design. Cut a heart shape and mount on coloured card.

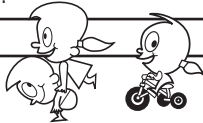
Health and physical education



- Use cookie cutters to cut heart shapes from slices of apple, pear, melon and other fruits to create a healthy and 'hearty' fruit salad. Use large cutters to create heart-shaped bread, cheese and cold meat slices for sandwiches, too.



- Talk to the children about being kind to others, then make decorative 'kindness coupons' for a special friend or parent.



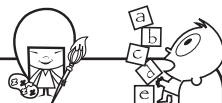
- Cut out hearts of different sizes and colours. Write a different number, shape or word on each, place them on the floor and have the children toss beanbags on the hearts and tell what it lands on.



- Create cake batter as directed on the packet and pour into cupcake pan liners. Place into cupcake pan. Place a marble at the top of each cupcake between the liner and the side of each cupcake indent. When cooked, decorate with icing and heart candies. (Heart-shaped cake pans could be used if available.)



Drama



- Cut out and staple together two heart shapes. Add fanfolded arms and legs and small hearts for hands and feet to make a simple puppet to use to relate how the heart works and what it does. Alternatively, ask the children to use them to tell what makes them happy.
- Select children to role-play being a mail person delivering cards and letters to others.

Music

- Use two strong paper plates taped together; decorated with red or pink markers, glitter and heart shapes; and filled with beans as shakers, to accompany favourite Valentine's Day or other songs.
- Place a cardboard heart in a basket and sing the song 'A-tisket, a-tasket', dropping the heart and selecting a child.

Teacher background information

Valentine's Day (a shortened form of Saint Valentine's Day) is a yearly celebration held on 14 February. It commemorates love and affection. It is believed that Valentine's Day is named after one, or a number of, early Christian martyrs and established circa 500 CE.

Some sources believe that Saint Valentine's Day is of Roman origin. One legend tells of Valentine, a priest who continued to perform Christian marriages for Roman soldiers against the wishes of Emperor Claudius II. Claudius believed that single men were better soldiers than those with wives and families. Eventually, Claudius ordered that Valentine be executed.

Other sources suggest that Valentine may have been executed because he helped Christians escape from Roman prisons where they were cruelly tortured.

Legend also tells of another Valentine who may have sent the very first valentine card or token. As a prisoner, possibly a Christian, he is believed to have fallen in love with the Roman jailer's daughter, who was a constant visitor. Before he died, he sent her a letter signed 'From your Valentine'.

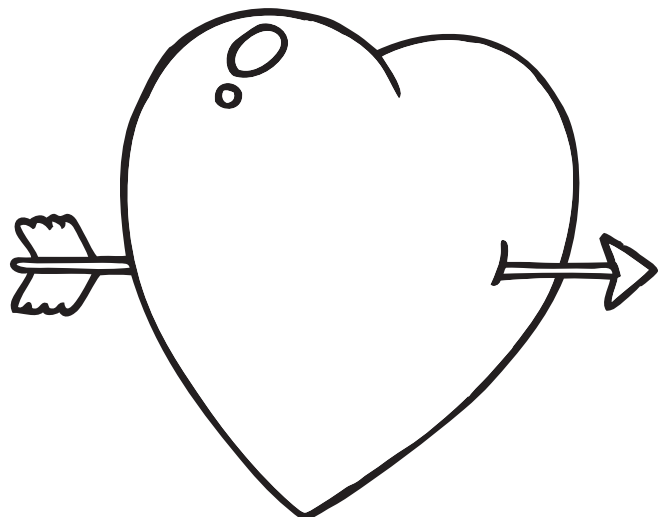
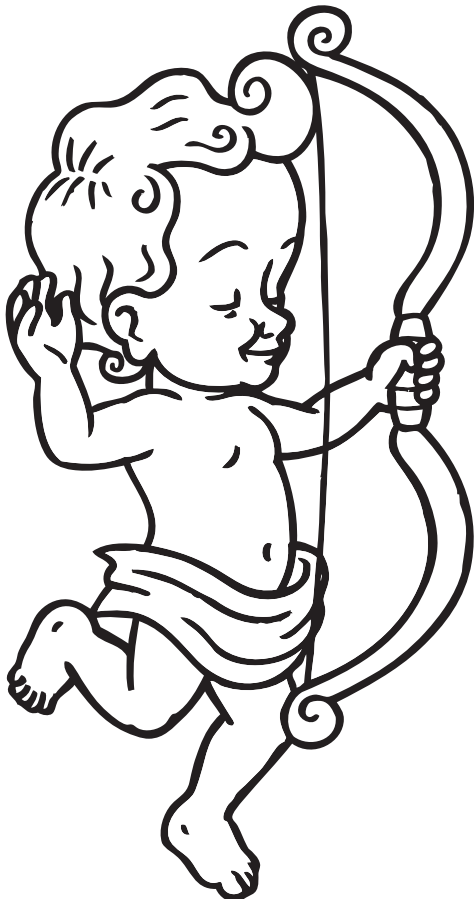
Valentine's Day became a popular celebration around the 17th century, and by the end of the 18th century printed cards began to replace handwritten tokens.

Valentine's Day is traditionally a day when tokens of affection such as flowers, confectionery, gifts and greeting cards (known as 'valentines') are exchanged or presented. It is estimated that around one billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, with most of these purchased by women.

Modern symbols of Valentine's Day include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the winged Cupid.

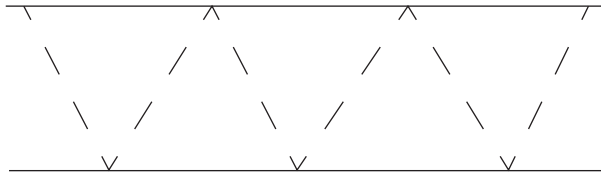
Concepts to be developed

- Many people around the world celebrate Valentine's Day.
- Valentine's Day is a day during which to tell people that you care about them.
- People often give cards, flowers, chocolate and candies as gifts on Valentine's Day.
- The heart is a symbol of Valentine's Day.

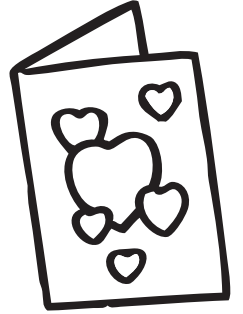
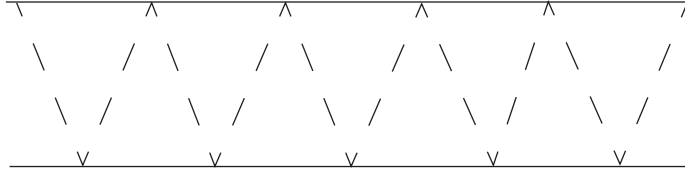


'V' for 'valentine'

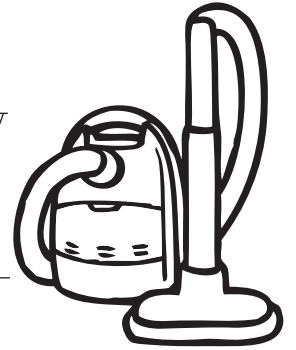
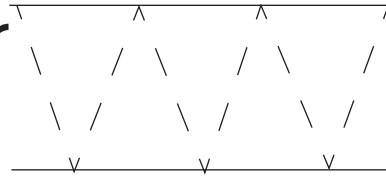
vegetables



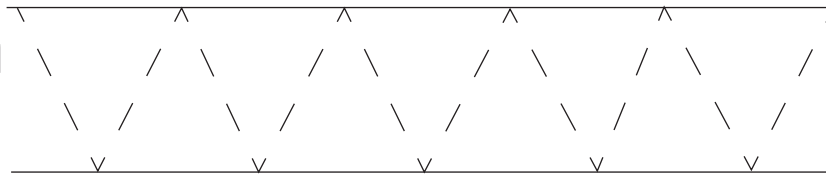
valentine



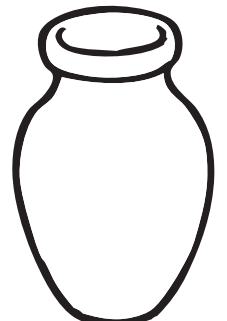
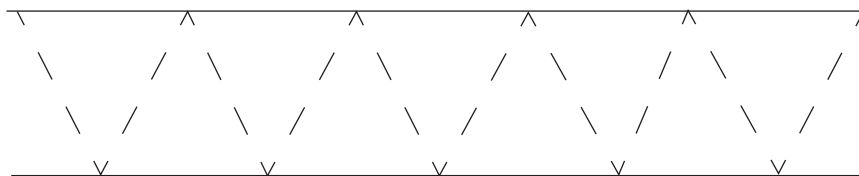
vacuum cleaner



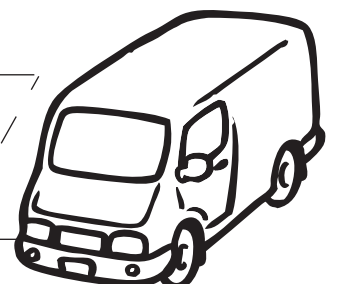
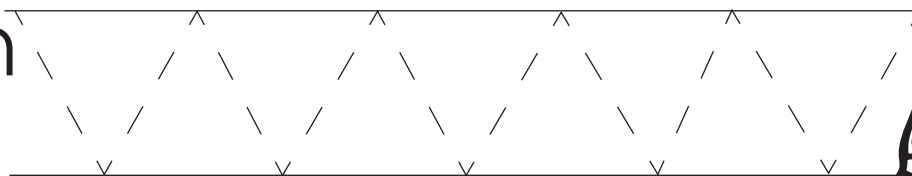
violin



vase

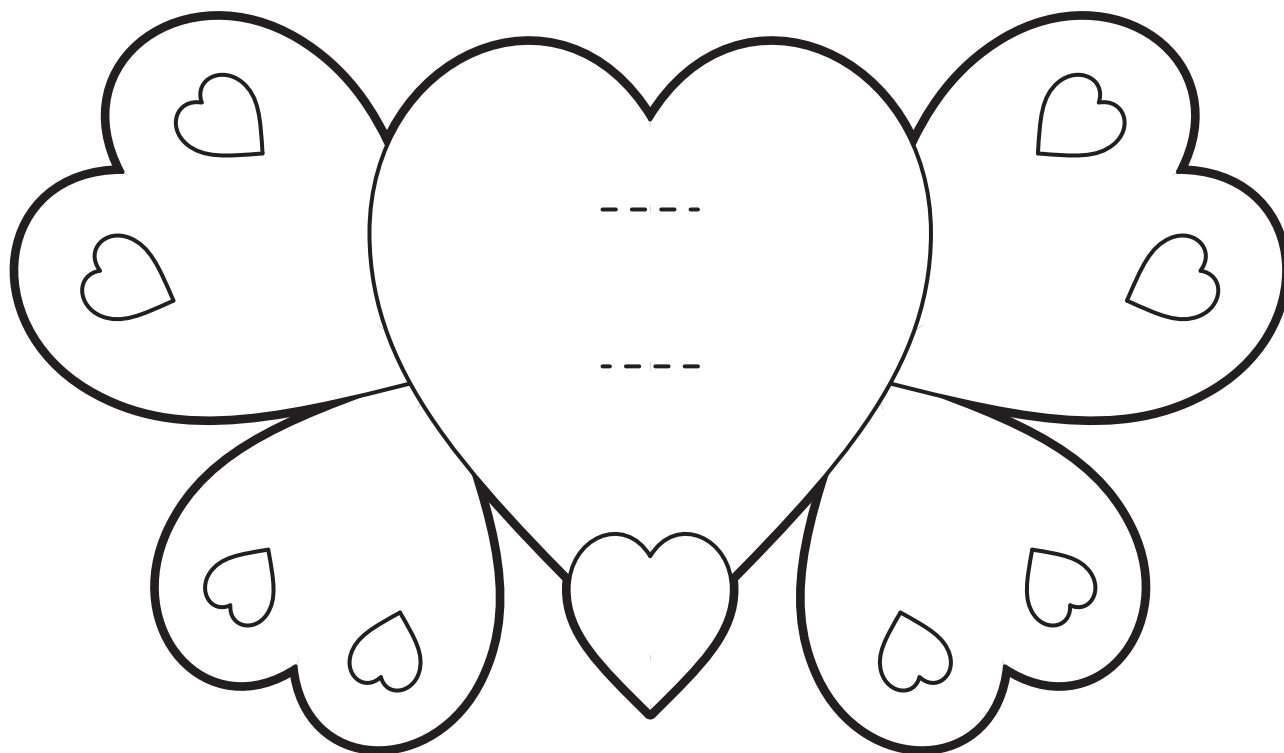
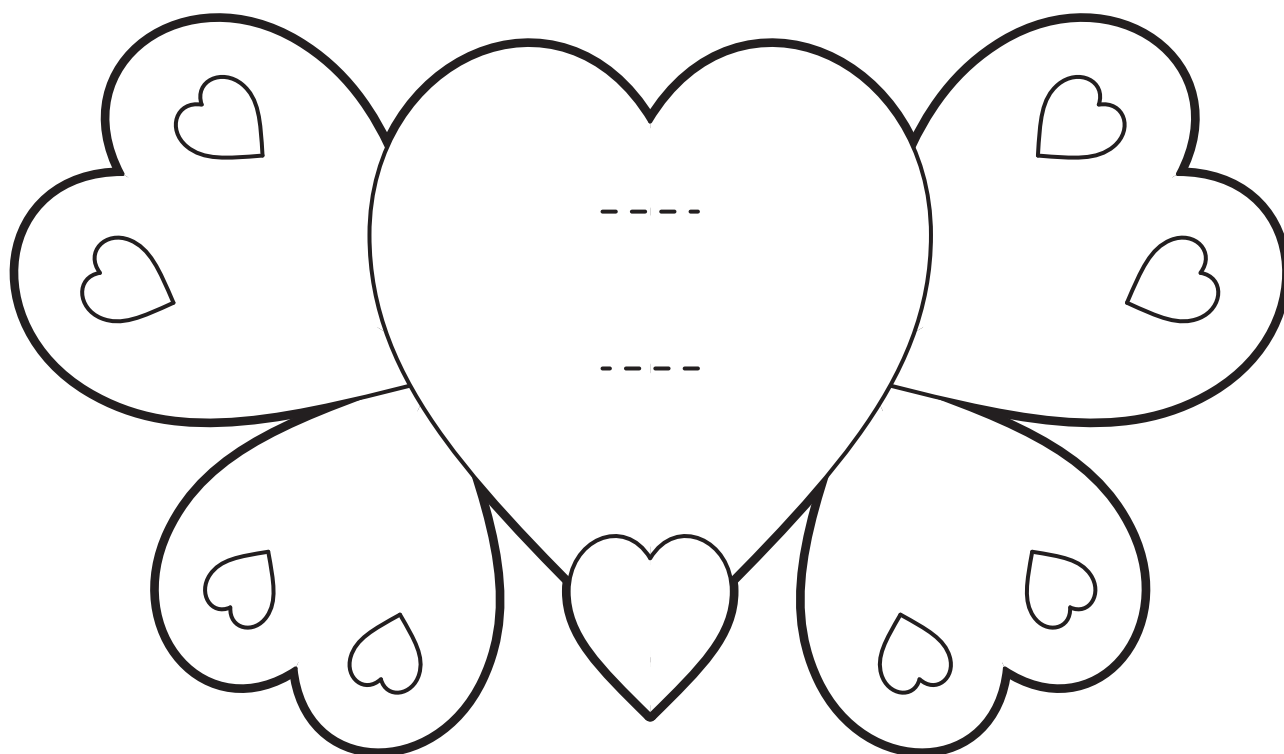
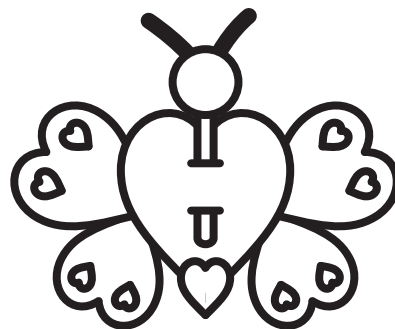


van



Instructions: The children trace the dotted line from each word or name beginning with 'v' to the drawing of the object that begins with the sound 'v'. Alternatively, use the writing pattern with a drawn circle at the end to create a viper (snake). As a class, write sentences such as 'Vipers like to eat vans/vegetables/violins etc.' and ask the children to draw appropriate pictures to match.

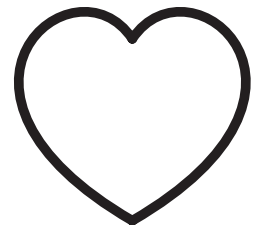
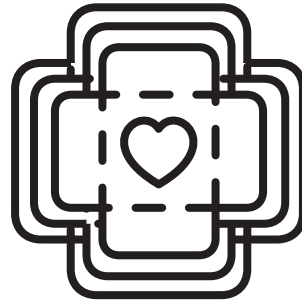
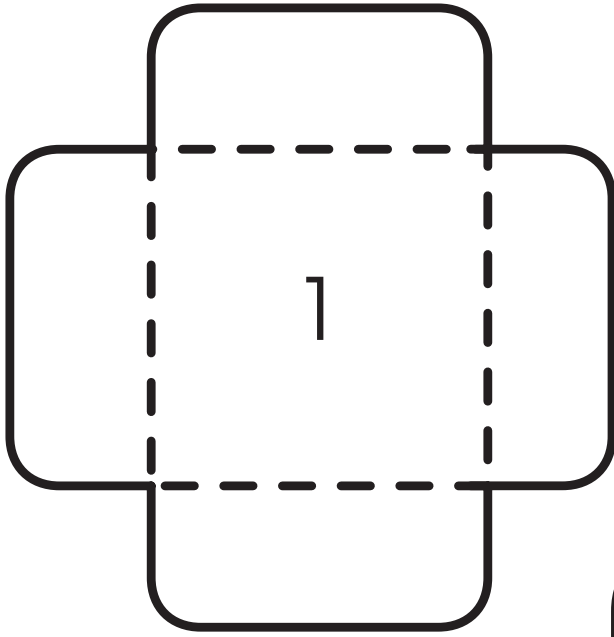
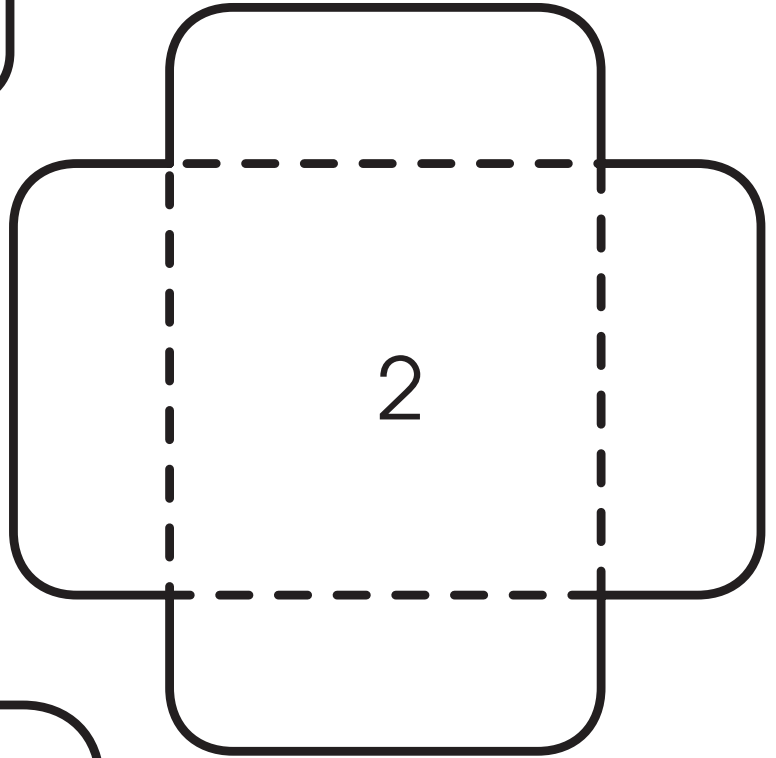
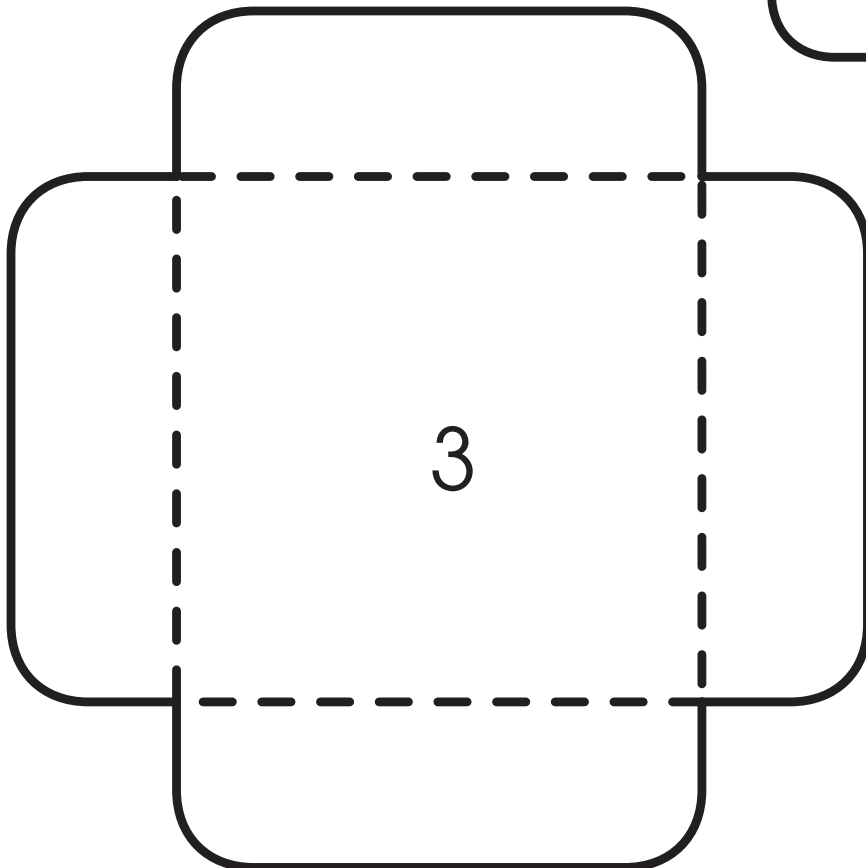
Heart butterfly gift



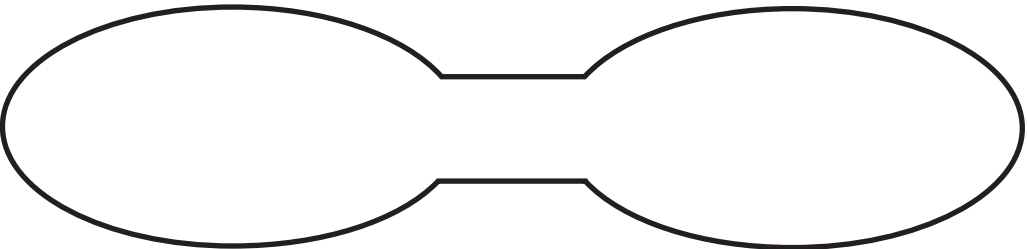
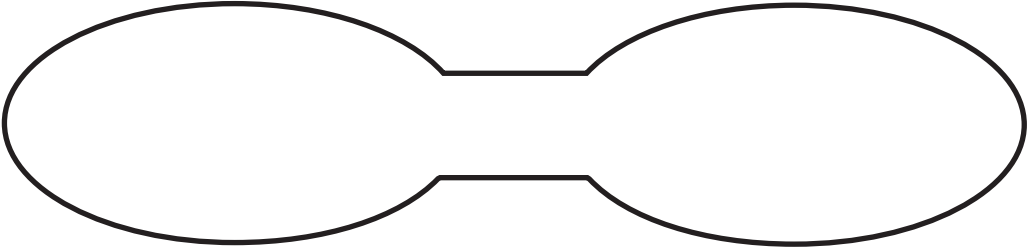
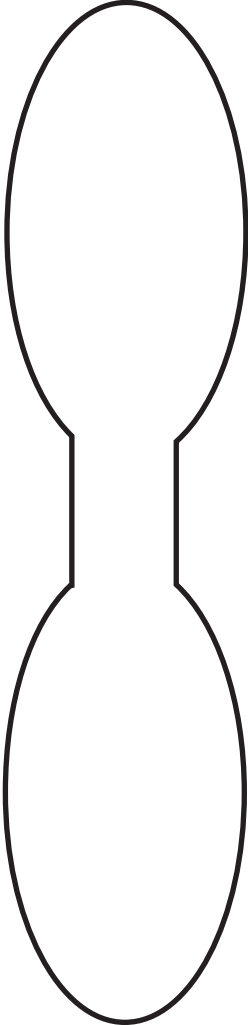
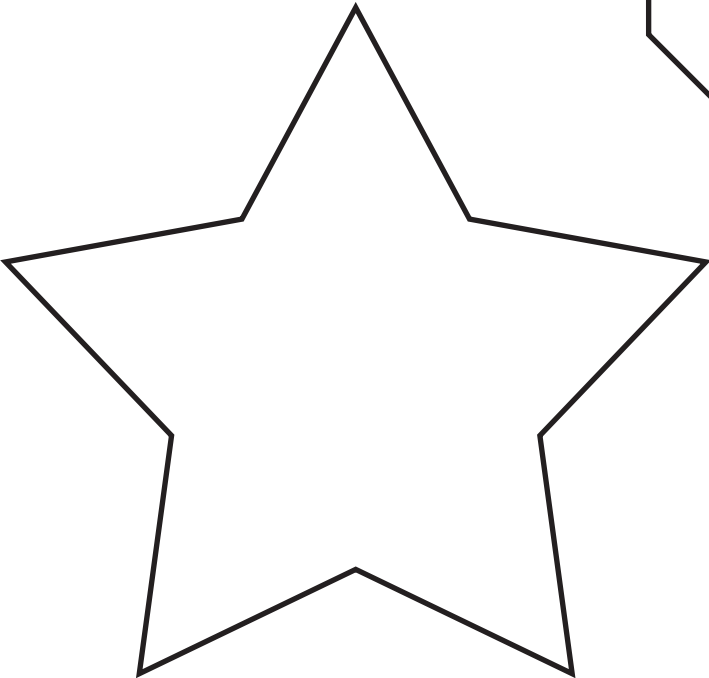
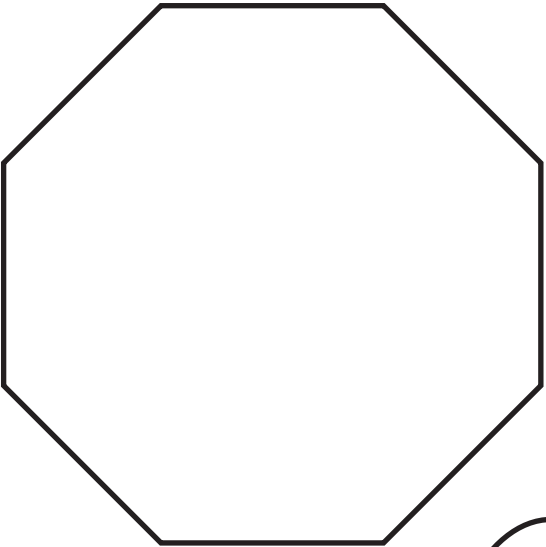
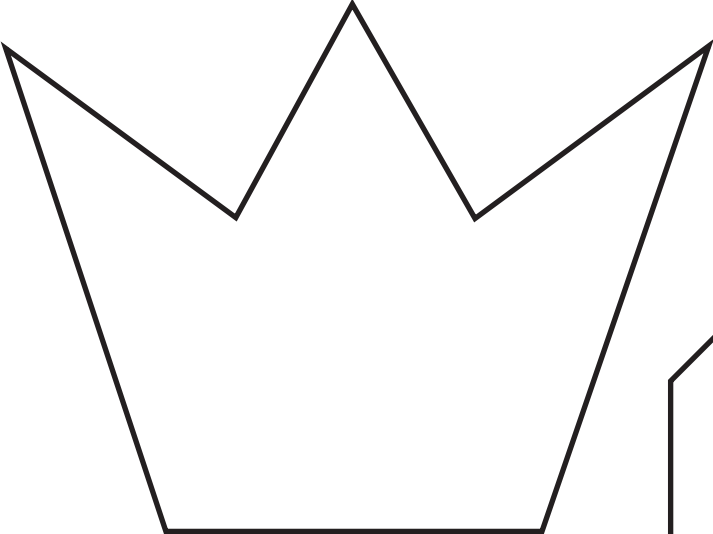
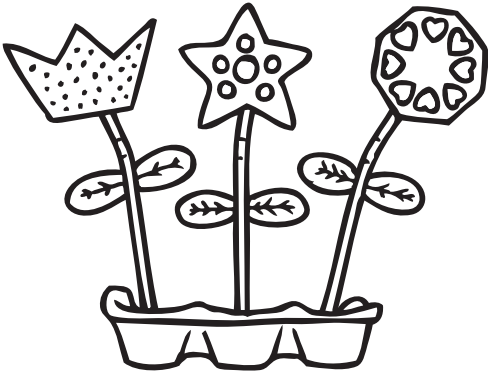
Instructions: Trace or photocopy onto card. Colour if necessary. Cut around the outline and have an adult cut along the dotted lines in the centre by using a sharp craft knife. Push the middle section up. Insert a lollipop. Twist a glitter pipe-cleaner around the head and arrange the ends into antennae.

Hidden heart card

Instructions: Enlarge to an appropriate size and photocopy onto coloured card. Cut out each shape. Glue Shape 1 on top of Shape 2, placing it exactly in the centre; then glue Shape 2 on top of Shape 3 in the same way. Glue the heart in the centre of Shape 1 and fold each of the edges inward (along the dotted lines), with the heart hidden in the middle. Use to reinforce the concepts of size—largest to smallest, numerical and ordinal numbers, and shapes. Decorate as desired. (Can be used as a flower centre for craft activities.)



Garden of flowers



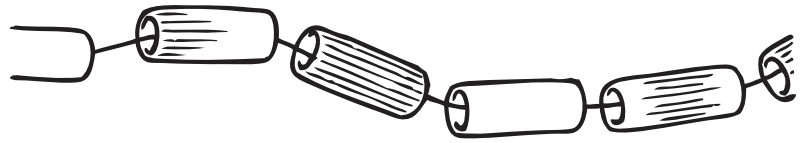
Instructions: Use the shapes as a template to trace onto coloured card, or colour template using crayons or paint. Cut out shapes. Decorate the flowers with stickers or glitter. Tape onto drinking straw stems. Draw veins on the leaves and tape onto straws. Insert each into a cup of a painted three-egg carton filled with play dough, potting mix or florists' foam. Use as inspiration for the children to create unusual flower shapes from pattern blocks or coloured paper shapes.

Recipes

Dyed pasta shapes (Non-edible)

Ingredients

- hollow pasta such as penne or rigatoni
- food colouring
- water



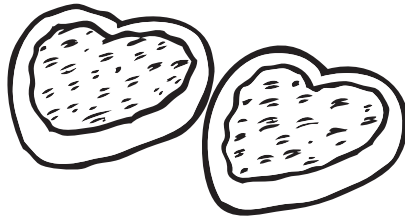
Instructions

- Dilute food colouring with water in a container. Place uncooked pasta in container and let stand for several minutes (or up to half an hour). Choosing darker colours and a longer time spent in the liquid will result in darker-coloured pasta. (Longer than half an hour will result in soggy pasta.) Remove from container and allow to dry. Use to thread necklaces on wool or thin ribbon.

Queen of hearts tarts

Ingredients

- prepared frozen pie pastry
- jam



Instructions

- Preheat oven to 180–190 °C. Have the children cut heart shapes from the frozen pastry using cookie cutters. Fold up the edges and spoon a small quantity of jam inside. Cook for about 10 minutes or until golden brown.

'Hearty' pizzas

Ingredients

- prepared pizza base
- sliced ham
- bought pizza tomato sauce
- grated mozzarella cheese

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 180–190 °C. Have the children cut heart shapes from the pizza base using heart-shaped cookie cutters. Spread pizza sauce over base and top with ham and cheese. Bake until cheese is melted. NOTE: Flat bread or pizza dough can be used as alternative bases.

Display ideas

Happy hearts

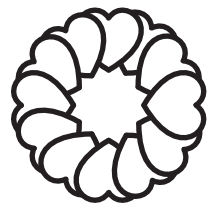
- Cut out a large coloured cardboard heart for each child. Have them bring in pictures, drawings or examples of things that make them happy (such as small plastic toys), to attach to the heart. Display grouped with a label which says 'Happy hearts make a happy classroom'.

We're sweethearts

- Construct a class reward chart with the name of each child displayed in a table format. When a child is 'caught' being good or doing something nice, they receive a heart sticker to place next to his/her name on the chart. After a given number of hearts, the children may receive a special reward such as a heart-shaped sweet.

Heart wreaths

- Create Valentine's Day decorations by arranging and gluing a pattern of hearts in a circle to create a wreath of hearts.



Heart art

- Provide a variety of hearts of different sizes and colours for the children to create their own heart-shaped art. They may like to create animals, people or designs from the shapes. Display together on a board.

Symmetrical number hearts

- Cut out 10 hearts from three or four different colours of cardboard. For each shape, write a number on one half and draw the corresponding number of small hearts on the other. Cut each in half using a different style of line (zigzag, curved, straight, jagged etc.). Back each half with an adhesive spot, mix up and stick onto on a bulletin board. The children match the halves.



Literature resources

Stories

- *What is Valentine's Day?: A lift-the-flap holiday story* by Harriet Ziefert
- *Clifford's first Valentine's Day* by Norman Bridwell
- *A circle is not a valentine* by H Werner Zimmerman
- *Roses are pink, your feet really stink* by Diane deGroot

— Songs, action rhymes, fingerplays and poems —

Roses are red

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet,
And so are you.

H-E-A-R-T

(Sung to the tune of B-I-N-G-O)

To show you like your special friend,
Just give them each a heart:
H-E-A-R-T! H-E-A-R-T! H-E-A-R-T!
Each heart says 'I like you'.

Make a heart

(Perform actions to suit words.)

I put my hands together.
This is how I start.
I curve my fingers right around
And I can make a heart.

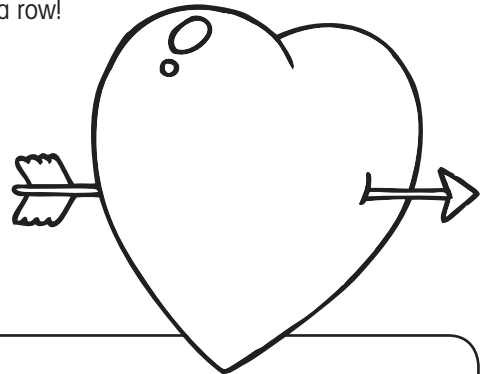
I love you

To every special friend of mine
I'll send a lovely valentine.
Mum, Dad, sister and brother, too.
Will receive a heart that says, 'I love you'.

Ten little valentines

(Sung to the tune of 'Ten little Indians')

One little, two little, three little valentines.
Four little, five little, six little valentines.
Seven little, eight little, nine little valentines.
Ten valentines in a row!



Notes: