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Best Buds

by UrbanBaby



You've banned store-bought gifts this Mother's Day — any token of appreciation the kids want to give must come straight from the heart. But considering you're usually on clean-up patrol, it's got to be fairly easy.

Below, Debbie Scaccio, an arts and crafts specialist at Brooklyn's Block Institute, shares suggestions for fun crafts based on the typical floral arrangement that little ones, particularly special needs children, and their families can create for Mom:

Tissue paper flowers: With the help of an adult, cut 2 or 3 inch-circles out of tissue paper. Attach with a chenille stem (pipe cleaner) by slightly poking a hole through six tissue paper circles. Have the child crumple each circle individually in the shape of a flower. You can make three or more flowers for a lovely bouquet.

Decoupage vase: Using tissue paper or magazine pictures, cut out or tear assorted shapes. Glue them with white glue to an empty water bottle or other long-necked plastic bottle. Place the paper over the entire bottle. Finish with a coat of a clear glaze, like Mod Podge. You may want to place fresh flowers or tissue paper flowers in the vase.

Construction paper cards: Using colored construction paper, cut the shape of a butterfly, flower or a heart. Fold in half so the card is symmetrical. Have the child decorate the card with stickers, and add a Mother's Day poem to the center of the card.