

"The Kissing Hand" (Handy Craft)

This month's craft was inspired by the book The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn. The Kissing Hand is about a mother raccoon and her son. Her little boy is afraid to go to school for fear of missing his mother. As a way of trying to soothe her son's worries, she kisses the palm of his hand and tells him any time he is missing her or is afraid or lonely, he should place the hand she kissed against his cheek. "That very kiss will jump to your face and fill you with toasty warm thoughts," she tells him.

This month you will find our version of The Kissing Hand with an American Sign Language twist. With school starting just around the corner, we thought you might like to create a "kissing hand" for your child to keep in his/her backpack on especially difficult days. For more craft activities and ideas, please visit us at www.signingtime.com and www.signingtimekids.org.

Materials Needed:

- Variety of colored tissue paper
- Scissors
- Liquid starch
- Wax paper
- Small dish or plate
- Paint brush
- Construction paper (any color)
- Pencil
- Stapler
- Hole punch
- Mom or Dad's Hand!
- Yarn, string, or ribbon



Rachel is signing "I Love You!" (ILY)

Book Link:

- "The Kissing Hand" by Audrey Penn
- "On My Very First Day of School I Met..." by Norman Stiles

Time to create!

Note: Begin by gathering all of the materials listed above. The tissue paper will eventually be cut into small squares (you won't need a lot, just a few different colors). If your child uses Dad's hand, then you will need construction paper larger than 8 1/2x11 to accommodate a larger hand.

Step 1: Start by folding your piece of construction paper in half. You (the parent) should place your hand in the ILY handshape (see above) onto the paper with the heel of your hand **on the fold**. To make tracing your ILY hand onto the paper easier, you may like to lay the backside of your hand onto the paper. Remember to keep the base of your hand on the fold. Once you have traced your ILY hand, cut along your traced line, leaving the folded edge at the base of the hand intact. You will notice that you now have two cut out hands which are attached by the folded edge. Now, carefully cut out the center of the hand leaving about 1/4-inch frame around the edges.



Step 2: Using the tissue paper, cut each color into ½-inch squares and set aside. Next, cut out two 4-inch square sheets of wax paper. At this time, have your child take a paint brush and begin brushing the liquid starch all over one of the sheets of wax paper. Your child can then begin randomly placing their colored tissue paper squares onto the starched wax paper. When all areas of the wax paper are covered and overlapped with tissue paper squares, wet the additional sheet of wax paper with starch and place the wet side facedown onto all of the squares and press together lightly. Allow time to dry. You just finished making your “stained glass” kissing hand!

Step 3: Now you will begin helping your child to assemble his/her “Kissing Hand.” Start by placing your colored wax paper between the two ILY hands. Then staple around the edges of the hand to hold the colored wax paper in place. Next, cut off all excess wax paper by following the edge of ILY hand. Only the center of the hand should have the “stained glass” look. Then, punch a hole into the construction paper and tie a piece of yarn or string for your child to be able to fasten it to a backpack, cubby, etc. Now your child has a constant reminder with your “Kissing Hand”!

