

# Theme: A Valentine Celebration

## Gross Motor (Indoor & Outdoor):

- Play "Duck, Duck, Goose" with a valentine instead! Kids can say, "Heart, Heart, Valentine!" instead.
- Try a relay race. Children can try running or walking the distance with a paper heart on their open hand without it flying off!
- Ribbon Dance: Let children move to the music waving red and/or pink ribbons or scarves in the air!
- Play musical chairs with hearts on the chairs. All the hearts could be red except one—make one pink—and the one left sitting on the pink heart gets a hug from you! (Make sure everybody gets a hug before the game is over!)
- Play a version of "hot potato" with a heart-shaped bean bag to toss around. If you have enough bean bags, a bean bag toss game would be fun, too!

## Math Activities:

- Count the hearts! Cut hearts from felt and use with a flannel board. If you make hearts in different colors, the children can sort them by color, as well.
- Cut hearts in different sizes and let the children put them in order, smallest to largest, largest to smallest.
- Using pictures from one of your favorite stories, have children help you put the story in sequence. This is great to use with a simple Valentine poem if your children are younger.
- See item #2 under Science Activities.
- Count Valentine Cards! Tape a string of 10 – 20 of them on the wall and let children count them, touching each one as they count.

## Science Activities:

- Let the children put drops of red food coloring into water to see it turn pink, then red. Play musical glasses by tapping containers with a spoon to hear the difference in sound depending on how much water is in the container.
- Let the children experiment with food coloring to see how many drops it takes to make a deep, vivid red.
- Let the children help you measure ingredients for baking the Valentine cookies you are decorating for art.
- Sink or float—drop a little food coloring in the water you're using at the sand and water table!
- Color rice with food coloring—put a few drops in a jar with the rice, put the lid on tight, and let the children shake it til it turns pink/red. Use the rice for art.

## Small Motor/Manipulatives:

- Make a homemade tic-tac-toe game with red and pink hearts.
- Let children cut their own ribbon bits and paper pieces for the collage art activity under "Art."
- Remember doing "cat's cradle" with yarn when you were a kid? Let children experiment with this activity using red or pink yarn.
- If you're making the pizza for snack, let the children separate the pepperoni (that's quite a task!).
- Bury a few pennies in some silly putty and let the children "dig" for them! (Supervise this activity closely!)

## Snacks:

- Edible art: Let the children decorate their own Valentine's cookies!
- Let the children cut heart shapes out of the center of a piece of bread and spread with their favorite topping, such as cheese spread.
- Make heart-shaped pancakes or muffins!
- Make a heart-shaped pizza the kids can "decorate" with cheese, pepperoni—or cream cheese and fruit, etc.

## Special Visual Aids/Room Set-Up/Field Trips:

- Take a field trip to your local bakery!
- Decorate the room with children's art work—remember to place the art at children's eye level!
- For circle time, cut out hearts from different colors for each child to sit on.
- Put Valentine window clings on the windows or a red heart-shaped throw pillow on the sofa!

Songs and Fingerplays \* See internet resources

## Books (available at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library):

Disney's Winnie the Pooh's Valentine, by Bruce Talkington  
Danny's Mystery Valentine, by Edith Kunhardt  
Happy Valentine's Day, Emma! by James Stevenson  
Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink, by Diane deGroat  
Word Bird's Valentine Words, by Jane Belk  
I Love You, Dear Dragon, by Margaret Hillert  
Junie B. Jones & the Mushy Gushy Valentine, by Barbara Park  
A Valentine for Norman Noggs, by Valiska Gregory  
Disney's Winnie the Pooh and Valentines, Too, by Liza Alexander  
The Berenstain Bears' Comic Valentine, by Stan & Jan Berenstain

Valentine, by Carol Carrick  
Arthur's Valentine, by Marc Brown  
Heart to Heart, by George Shannon  
Clifford's First Valentine's Day, by Norman Bridwell  
The Valentine Bears, by Eve Bunting  
Valentine Friends, by Ann Schweninger  
Silly Tilly's Valentine, by Lillian Hoban  
The Story of Valentine's Day, by Clyde Robert Bulla

## Circle Time Activities:

- Read a story together. Talk about it. By the end of the week, let the children tell you what's going to happen next before you turn the page.
- Sing songs and fingerplays.
- Talk about how Valentine's Day got started.
- Ask the children "Who do you love the most?"
- Do the math flannel board activity.
- Let the children tell you something they are going to do to show their parents, grandparents, or siblings that they love them.

## Dramatic Play:

A variety of cake pans to pretend they're baking a Valentine's cake; lots of frilly dress-up clothes; red hats

## Art:

- Cut a heart shape out of a piece of red or pink construction paper. Let the children draw what they want on the paper. They may or may not choose to incorporate the open heart into their artwork, depending on age.
- Give children a variety of scraps of paper, lace, ribbon, etc., to glue onto a heart-shaped piece of red, pink or white paper to make a Valentine collage. Use glue or paste (you can always use flour/water paste you let the children help you make).
- Finger paint with red and pink paint!
- Spatter paint with red and pink paints (children can flick paint off a toothbrush with their fingers, or brush the paint with a toothbrush over a box with a screen over it—brushing over the screen leaves paint spattered on the paper below).
- Mix a little red tempera paint with some milk and let the children use eye droppers to drop the paint onto a white coffee filter—watch the paint spread!
- Put a sheet of white paper in the bottom of an oblong baking dish; let the children dip marbles or ping pong balls in red or pink paint, drop it into the baking dish, and roll it around.

## Additional/Online Resources:

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/valentines-day/index.html>  
[www.ricekrispies.com/activities.aspx](http://www.ricekrispies.com/activities.aspx)  
[www.abcteach.com/valentine/valconcent.htm](http://www.abcteach.com/valentine/valconcent.htm)  
[www.makingfriends.com/valentines\\_day\\_paper\\_crafts.htm](http://www.makingfriends.com/valentines_day_paper_crafts.htm)  
[www.kinderart.com/seasons/val9.shtml](http://www.kinderart.com/seasons/val9.shtml)  
[www.suzyque.us/February/Will-You-Be-My-Valentine.htm](http://www.suzyque.us/February/Will-You-Be-My-Valentine.htm)  
[www.roundrocktexas.gov/docs/friends\\_valentines\\_library\\_.pdf](http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/docs/friends_valentines_library_.pdf)  
[www.geocities.com/teachingwithheart/fingerplays.html](http://www.geocities.com/teachingwithheart/fingerplays.html)  
[www.preschoolrainbow.org/occasion-rhymes.htm](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/occasion-rhymes.htm)  
[www.busyteacherscafe.com/resources/february\\_resources.htm](http://www.busyteacherscafe.com/resources/february_resources.htm)

[www.perpetualpreschool.com/valentine\\_songs.html](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/valentine_songs.html)  
[www.bellaonline.com/articles/art49018.asp](http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art49018.asp)  
<http://childfun.com/>  
[www.theholidayzone.com/valentine/vsongs.html](http://www.theholidayzone.com/valentine/vsongs.html)  
[www.theholidayzone.com/valentine/vsongs.html](http://www.theholidayzone.com/valentine/vsongs.html)  
[www.familiesonlinemagazine.com/valfingerplays.html](http://www.familiesonlinemagazine.com/valfingerplays.html)  
<http://stepbystepcc.com/holidays/valday.html>  
[www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Valentine\\_s\\_Day/](http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Valentine_s_Day/)  
<http://familycrafts.about.com/library/misc/blvalsongs.htm>  
[www.mrsjonesroom.com/holidays/valentinesday.html](http://www.mrsjonesroom.com/holidays/valentinesday.html)

[www.glc.k12.ga.us/BuilderV03/lptools/lpshared/lpdisplay.asp?Session\\_Stamp=&LPID=55041](http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/BuilderV03/lptools/lpshared/lpdisplay.asp?Session_Stamp=&LPID=55041)

## Materials Needed:

Heart-shaped cookie cutters  
Pizza dough and toppings  
Cake pans  
Frilly dress-up clothes  
White paper, ping pong balls for art activity  
Books from the library  
Bread for toast  
Red and pink ribbons for ribbon dance  
Red sash for Duck, Duck, Goose game  
Paper hearts for the relay race, musical chairs, and for sitting on during circle time

Red and pink felt  
Flannel board  
Red and pink construction paper  
Paste or glue  
Bits of ribbon, string, paper for Valentine heart collages  
Red food coloring  
Red tempera paint (mix up red and pink)  
Milk  
Coffee filters  
Spatter paint screens  
Toothbrushes for painting