



Mother's Day activities

These six suggestions for Mother's Day are low on cost but packed with learning opportunities to incorporate into your class literacy and art programs.

These activities

- help develop children's creativity and teach them skills that they can apply in future gift-giving situations.
- show children that not all gifts need come from a store, and allow children from even the poorest families to give their mums a special Mother's Day gift.
- show how thoughtfulness and imagination can combine to make a unique gift that will be treasured.

A gift from the heart lasts longer than many store-bought gifts.

1. Read picture books featuring mothers



A few of my favourites are:

Koala Lou by **Mem Fox**

Love You Forever by **Robert Munsch**

I Love You with All My Heart by **Noris Kern**

Just Like That by **Mem Fox** (also available as *Harriet, You'd Drive Me Wild*)

Where's Mum? by **Libby Gleeson** and **Craig Smith**

Getting Home by **J.R. Poulter** and **Muza Ulasowski**


Are You My Mother? By **P.D. Eastman**

2. Discuss what a mother is and write a collaborative verse; for example:

Write the phrase, "A mother is someone who" on the board and ask children to complete the statement. Write their suggestions. Collect as many ideas as you can. Children will share a variety of special, mundane, humorous, and complimentary, statements about their mums.

Compile the suggestions into a verse. Print and distribute the verse for children to illustrate with pictures of their mums (ensure they sign their illustrations in the bottom right-hand corner).

For example:



What is a mother?

A Mother is someone who loves you.
A Mother is someone who cares for you.
A Mother is someone who looks after you.
A Mother is someone who gives you hugs and kisses.
A Mother is someone who plays games with you.
A Mother is someone who reads you stories.
A Mother is someone who makes your dinner.
A Mother is someone who goes to work.
A Mother is someone who tucks you into bed at night.
A Mother is someone who tells you what to do.
A Mother is someone who makes you clean your teeth.
A Mother is someone who makes your lunch.
A Mother is someone who makes you better when you are hurt.

I love my Mum and she loves me.

When laminated or rolled into a scroll, these make a lovely Mother's Day gift.

3. Write individual books about “My Mum”

The collaborative verse is a great way to get children thinking about all the special things their mums do for them. It is only a small step from here for children to make their own individual books composed of statements about their mothers. This time children write a series of statements beginning with “My Mum”. They may write things such as:

My mum tucks me into bed at night.

My mum reads me stories.

My mum makes me feel better when I am sick.

My mum goes to work.

My mum likes to watch TV.

If children write their statements into their writing books first, they can be edited and proofread before publishing in a book. With each statement written on its own page and illustrated, these books make a lovely gift. Presenting them in a heart shape makes them a little more special. (See the template and other suggestions in [My Mum – heart-shaped book template](#))



4. Draw or paint a self-portrait, or portrait of self with mother

Provide children with a selection of paper and drawing and painting media to make a self-portrait for their mums. Alternatively, they may wish to make a portrait of their mum or of themselves with their mum. This activity works well if they have already had opportunities to work with different media; for example:

pastels

crayons

pencils

felt pens

gel pens

chalk

charcoal

watercolour paints

acrylic paints

powder paints



You could also provide a selection of collage materials from which children could select to enhance their portraits.

The finished portraits could be framed with strips of coloured paper and mounted on a stiff cardboard backing, or laminated for durability.



5. Write "I love" poems

Discuss and list things children love to do with their mums. Children write their own list poem of things they like to do with their Mums; for example:

I love cooking with my Mum.

I love it when my Mum reads me stories.

I love watching television with my Mum.

I love playing games with my Mum.

Refer to the resource [Write your own "I love" poem](#) for other ideas and a printable card template.

6. Make a special waterlily Mother's Day card

Waterlily cards are a special gift for Mother's Day. Flowers are cut from circles of paper. A message is written inside the flower (use permanent felt pens or biros). The flower is folded and given to Mum on Mother's Day. When she places the flower in water, it magically opens, revealing the message. Note: It could take half an hour or more for the flower to open fully.

(Refer to the resource [Waterlily card](#) for additional information and step by step instructions.)

