

## Pockets of Love Project - For Mother's Day or Father's Day, for a grandparent, a teacher, or a friend.

Here's a fun gift idea that recycles those piles of worn- out children's clothes that fill up our closets.

Cut a patch pocket from a favorite item of out-grown and worn-out children's clothing such as a jeans back pocket, cute pocket from a well loved dress or a front pocket from a little boy's flannel shirt. Cut just next to the seam and along the top of the pocket. Have children decorate the front of the pocket with buttons, beads, sequins or bits of ribbon. Use a craft glue such as Aleene's. Help children glue the ends of a ribbon to each corner

to form a loop for hanging. Fill the pocket with chocolate kisses.

Children will enjoy wrapping their presents in white or light colored tissue. The paper can then be decorated with their own kisses! Help children apply a small amount of children's brightly colored lip-gloss and "print" a kiss or two on the top of their packages. Children should wash their hands well or use an anti-bacterial wipe before dipping a finger into the lip-gloss, or have an adult apply lip-gloss and use a new Q-tip between children.

Note to daycare providers and nursery schools: This project is very cute using pockets from any children's clothing. However, it will be more meaningful if children make the pockets from their own clothing. Send a note home explaining that you are planning a craft project and need an item of clothing with a patch pocket that the child has out-grown.

Kari, resident teacher

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## Background Information for Teachers and Parents

### Mother's Day

Like so many of our days of celebration, Mother's Day resembles a much earlier festival, the mid-March ceremony honoring Rhea, the mother of the Gods in ancient Greece. More recently, about the time England was colonizing America, the English set aside a spring day as "Mothering Sunday," when young people who worked away from home as servants could visit their mothers bearing a gift, traditionally a rich little fruit cake.

And then just after the American Civil War, in 1872, Juliet Ward Howe, who wrote the words to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", proposed that a Mother's Day be set aside as a time to promote peace. In 1908, after months of lobbying by a preacher's daughter named Anna Jarvis, West Virginia became the first of many states to establish a Mother's Day. And in 1914, Congress established and President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the American Mother's Day to be the second Sunday in May. Its symbol is a carnation, red if the mother is still alive, white if she has passed away.

### Father's Day

Father's Day has only Mother's Day as a historical precedent. In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodds heard a Mother's Day sermon and immediately went to work to establish a day commemorating men like her widowed father, a Civil War veteran who had raised his six children alone on a remote farm in Eastern Washington State. The first Father's Day celebration took place in Spokane, Washington, the following year, and in 1924 the notion of a nation-wide father's day was endorsed by President Calvin Coolidge. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Roses are the day's flower: red if the father is still alive, white if he has passed away.



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