



Therapeutic Horticulture Activity Plant Markers from Flatware

Source: image from magazine and Rieppe Hendrick

Form Prepared by: Rieppe Hendrick

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Overview: Repurposing flatware into plant markers.

Precautions:

1. If using forks or knives there will be sharp edges (optional)
2. Use of scissors (optional)

Completion Time: 30 - 45 minutes

Materials: (10 participants)

1. Pieces of flatware; likely to use more spoons than knives and forks because of surface area for images (10+)
2. List of plants that plant markers are to be made for on board or large piece of paper to hang

(1)

3. Tape to hang list (optional) (1)
4. Images of plants the finished markers are to identify (magazines, seed packets, etc) (10+)
5. Scissors (1-10)
6. Permanent markers (1-5)
7. Letter stamps and ink (1 set)
8. Paper scraps (1-10)
9. Modge Podge (1)

10. Individual containers to pour Modge Podge into (10)
11. Foam brushes (10)
12. Roll of paper towels (1)
13. Container of water to use for glue clean up as needed during the activity and to put foam brushes into after every body is finished (2)
14. Covering to protect table or work surface (1)
15. Area for plant markers to sit while glue dries (1)

Pre-Session Prep:

1. Create a list of the plants the markers are desired for on the large paper or white board; making letters large enough for participants to copy if spelling assistance is needed.
2. Collect supplies.
3. Make a few examples of finished markers using different options with images, written words and stamps.
4. Place table cover/protection over work space.

Step-By-Step Process/Instructions:

1. Introduce the activity.
2. Show examples of finished products.
3. Pass out 1 piece of silverware and 1 empty container for the Mod Podge to each participant.
4. Call out the plant list on the board/paper.
5. Have each person identify which plant they would like to make the marker for and write that person's name next to the plant on the list.
6. Place the images into central piles accessible to all participants.
7. Set out stamps.
8. Have participants choose what they would like to add to the marker.
9. Pass out scissors to those who wish to trim images; can also encourage tearing of the paper for a less tidy look vs using scissors.
10. Place ink pads out as needed.
11. Pour Mod Podge into containers at each person's seat and pass out foam brushes as you pour.
12. Encourage placement of glue either onto the silverware or

the image to place initially and then cover the entire paper surface area with more Mod Podge, layering as needed to make a thick covering.

13. Place marker in designated area to dry until no longer tacky to the touch; time will depend on thickness of the Mod Podge applied.
14. Place in the garden once fully dried.

Tips:

1. Bang spoons flat with a hammer prior to creating markers if a falter surface is desired.
2. Get flatware from thrift stores or from the dollar store.
3. Pre-separate images for each plant and put them into bags/containers so participants do not have to search through the pile. Only put scrap paper into piles on the table.
4. If somebody is not happy with the result, paste new images/paper over the old.

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