

Perpetual Calendar Instructions

Ages 1-6

Materials Needed:

7—8-1/2" x 11" sheets of seven colored papers (red, yellow, blue, dark green, light green, purple, orange)
1—22" x 30" sheet of foam board
111 sets of small Velcro fasteners (rough and smooth) with self-adhesive backing

Colored pencils or markers
Scissors
Ruler
Pencil or pen
Special treats or notes for pockets

Instructions:

Preparing the paper

1. Make all of the 8-1/2" x 11" sheets of colored paper into a square by folding the right corner of the paper up to the left side of the paper. Make a point at the bottom left corner and the entire bottom edge even with the side edge.
2. With the paper folded, mark with a pencil where the triangle crossed the extra paper.
3. Unfold the paper and cut along that line. What remains should be a square. (Depending upon the age of the child, he/she can also cut along the edge of folded paper rather than mark it with the pencil.)
4. Repeat with all 35 sheets of paper to make all squares. Save the extra paper for other parts of this project.

Folding the pockets

1. Fold the square in half making a rectangle. Talk about the shape with the child.
2. Fold the rectangle in half again making a square. Talk about the shape and equal sides with the child.
3. Fold one of the open corners (using 1 sheet) down to the opposite corner. One sheet will be a triangle while the back three sheets remains a square.
4. With the triangle pointing down, turn the project so that the triangle is on the table. Fold the 2 side corners across the back (square) part of the paper so that they overlap equally. Tape or staple the two corners together.
5. Turn the project over again and you should see a pocket on the front in which you can place special notes or treats for certain days of the month.
6. Repeat steps 1-5 for all 35 sheets of paper.
7. Use 12 of the long narrow rectangles scraps from step 3 of Preparing the paper to act as month headings. Write the names of each month on a separate rectangle.
8. Use the other rectangle scraps to make the day-of-the-week headings. Fold each rectangle in half making another long rectangle. Unfold it. Fold each end into the first fold. With these folds remaining, fold the piece in half making shorter rectangles. Cut along this fold line. Fold each half in half again and cut along the new fold line. Make a day-of-the-week heading for each color (i.e. Monday in red, yellow, blue, dark green, light green, purple, orange; Tuesday in red, yellow, blue, dark green, light green, purple, orange, etc.)

Attaching the pieces

1. Using all rough sides of the Velco, attach the self-adhesive side to the same place on the back of each pocket, day-of-the-week heading and 2 on the month headings. Measure if necessary to make them all the same.
2. Measure two places 5-1/4" up from the bottom of the foam board and make a line. Measure along this line and make a mark at 1" in from each side and every 3" between the two marks.
3. Measure two places 4-3/4" up from the line made across the bottom of the foam board and make another line. Measure along this line and make a mark at 1" in from each side and every 3" between the two marks. Repeat this step until you have 5 lines marked with 7 places along each line.
4. Above the 5th line, measure two places 1-1/4" up from the bottom of the foam board and make a line. Measure along this line and make a mark at 1" in from each side and every 3" between the two marks.
5. Above the 6th line, measure two places 1-3/4" up from the bottom of the foam board and make a line.
6. Remove the self-adhesive protective paper from rough pieces of Velco and attach them to the board at each of these marks on the bottom 6 lines. Remove the self-adhesive protective paper from smooth pieces of Velco and attach them to the day in the center and 1-inch down from the top and on the day-of-the-week pieces, trying to put them in the center of the rectangle.
7. Attach the smooth side of the Velco to the rough side on each of the month headings and day-of-the-week and month headings not being used in this month. Remove the self-adhesive protective paper from the smooth piece of Velco and attach the pieces on the back of the board for easy storage. They will be used in months to come.

Project Expanded into Additional Subjects:

1. Math: Recognition of rectangles, squares, triangles.
2. Math: Measuring with ruler.
3. Math: Fractions of 1/2 as the papers are folded.
4. Art: Color identification.
5. Literature: Stories related to time, days of the week, months, calendar.
6. Vocabulary: Identification of numbers, days of week, months.
7. Gross Motor skills: Fold napkins like the calendar pockets and place eating utensils in them.
8. Concept of Time: Days of the week, month, year, holidays.