

Holiday Helps

Ideas for Elementary Classrooms

Have a message you want to share with the world?
Send your tidings up to the sky in these miniature hot air balloons.

Hot Air Balloon Message-Carriers

What You'll Need

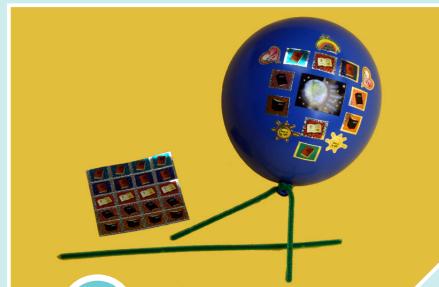
- balloons
- small baskets, margarine tubs, or tissue boxes
- hole punch
- craft sticks (4 per child)
- markers
- stickers
- glue or tape
- chenille wires (1 per child)
- optional: candy treats, photos, paper, scissors



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What You Do

1. Using tape or glue, attach four craft sticks upright around the inside of a basket, margarine tub, or tissue box. Note: If you are using a woven basket, you may be able to simply wedge the sticks through the slots in the basket. Decorate the basket with stickers.
2. Inflate a medium-sized balloon. Decorate the balloon with stickers or drawings, if desired. Bend a chenille wire in half and wrap the center of the wire around the knot at the balloon's base.
3. Rest the balloon on the upright craft sticks and attach the ends of the wire to opposite sides of the base. If the base you are using does not have spaces in which to loop/wedge the wire, punch two holes on opposite sides of the base and loop the wires through the holes to secure the balloon to the base. Now write messages or Bible verses on slips of paper to put inside the basket, or fill the basket with candy and gifts.



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Another Idea!

Have the children bring in or draw pictures of themselves and loved ones to whom the baskets can be given. From construction paper, cut out people shapes and glue faces from the pictures on the shapes. Put the figures in the baskets to make them look as though the people are in the hot air balloons together; add a note in the basket or on the balloon to share God's love with the people in the pictures. Then, take the message to the sky!



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