

Design a Box of Love

By April Brown for PBS SoCal Education



You'll need:

- Old shoebox (one per child)
- Construction paper
- Newspaper or brown packing paper
- Stickers
- A variety of craft materials such as feathers, stickers, old bows, cut up cards, gems and anything else that seems fun
- Glue
- Markers and other coloring materials

What to do:

- Cover a table with newspaper or brown packing paper.
- Place all the other materials on the table.
- Get out five or more pieces of construction paper and support your child in folding each piece into four parts. Relate this to fractions and parts of a whole. For example, say, "We started with one large piece of paper. How many sections did we split it into? Yes, 4! These smaller pieces of paper are going to be the love notes. If I write on one, that means I used one quarter of the paper. If I write on two, that means I used one half of the paper." Feel free to continue this kind of math talk as you decorate the box and continue the activity.
- Invite your child to decorate their Box of Love. Explain to your child that you will place love notes in the box each day in February (and beyond if you wish).
- Each evening after your child has gone to bed, write a love note to them. Notes can be drawings with labels, poems, songs, jokes, and memories. Not only will this foster

connection between yourself and your child, but it is also a wonderful way to support literacy development. Understanding that print carries a message and engaging in reading and writing attempts are all wonderful ways to increase awareness and motivation around these topics.

- **Optional:** Create a Box of Love for every member of the family. Invite your child to create their own pictures and notes using words, scribbles and magazine cut-outs to place in their family members' boxes.