

A Practical Guide



My Mini
Monsters

Do Something Nice for Mum!



I Love My Mummy!

Sometimes, the little things are all that matters...

Every year we show how much we love our Mums with flowers and cards on Mother's Day. This year, we've decided they deserve more than one day of appreciation - after all, our Mums are there for us every single day of the year!

So to give you a helping hand in showing how much you love your Mum, whatever day of the year it might be, we've put together this helpful guide packed with fun, cheap and easy gifts to treat your Mum... because she's worth it!

Keep reading to learn how to make:

Matchbox Moments
Simple Sun Catcher
Easy Egg Art
Paper Pouches

Matchbox Moments

Good for kids aged 3 years and older
You will need:

- empty matchboxes
- coloured paper
- string and ribbon
- pen, scissors and sellotape

- 1) Start by cutting pieces of coloured card about 5cm wide and 10cm long. Plain card can be decorated or left blank.
- 2) Wrap one piece of card around each matchbox and secure with sellotape.
- 3) Add string, ribbon and tags to each box as decoration.
- 4) Fill the boxes with treats for Mum - anything from sweets and nuts, to hair clips or bobbles.
- 5) Write on the tag a short message or label with the contents of the matchbox.

(Filling the matchboxes with sweets and treats is the easiest option and requires the least expense. Maybe Dad has decided to treat Mum to some new earrings, a brooch or new lipstick, so your little matchbox is the perfect gift box for him to use? If your Mum has a hobby or enjoys collecting things, these little boxes might be especially useful; try helping Mum store her bits and bobs safely, anything from buttons to beads, and label the boxes with tags so she can find them again quickly. Whatever you find to fill the boxes, your Mum will appreciate the time you spent making them more than what's inside!)

Simple Sun Catchers

Good for kids aged 3 years and older
You will need:

- wax crayons and a sharpener
- wax paper
- cardboard and an iron
- pencil, scissors, hole puncher and ribbon

- 1) Lay a large piece of wax paper flat and sharpen the crayons over it, then place a second piece of wax paper over the shavings.
- 2) Iron the top layer of paper on a low heat setting until the crayon shavings have melted. Leave to cool.
- 3) Draw a circle or other shape on the cooled wax and cut it out.
- 4) Punch a hole at the top and tie a ribbon through. Hang at the window and admire!

(Start with a simple shaped sun catcher to master the technique, but later try using different colours to make flowers or hearts. If you make a few different shapes why not use an old wire coat hanger to string them like a mobile, or string multiple shapes in lengths to make window drapes. See where else you can hang them to catch the sun! Ask Dad to help with the iron and be careful with scissors.)

Easy Egg Art

Good for kids aged 4 years and older

You will need:

- cardboard egg cartons
- poster paints and paint brushes
- cardboard
- scissors, glue and a frame

- 1) Cut the rounded bottoms of egg cartons from the box and trim any flat parts.
- 2) Decide what picture to create - for example a flower.
- 3) Cover surfaces with protective paper, then start painting! Try painting one egg holder yellow and the others a colour of your choice, maybe white for a daisy?
- 4) Once dry, glue with the open sides down, in a flower arrangement centering from the yellow egg holder.
- 5) Place inside a simple frame and hang!

(Start with something simple using only one or two colours, then test your art skills with bigger projects like animals or maybe your family members? Make sure you use strong glue and leave plenty of time to dry before hanging.)

Paper Pouches

Good for kids aged 4 years and older

You will need:

- paper CD sleeves
- grease proof paper
- decorative paper and pens etc.
- scissors and string

- 1) Using stamps, sequins or just pens, decorate the CD sleeves with patterns and pictures for Mum.
- 2) Make card tags, write on messages and attach with string.
- 3) Insert a shop-bought cookie into the pouch and show Mum you care!

(This is the easiest gift to give and takes a matter of minutes to turn a simple cookie into a thoughtful treat. If you have more time on your hands why not try making the cookies yourself for extra brownie points? Try our easy cookie recipe below!)

Choc Chip Cookies

Ingredients:

- 350g sifted plain flour
- 1tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1tsp salt
- 225g butter
- 175g caster sugar
- 175g soft brown sugar
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 350g dark chocolate chips

- 1) Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5
- 2) In a large bowl, sift the flour, baking soda and salt.
- 3) In a separate bowl, cream the butter, sugar brown sugar and vanilla extract until fluffy. Beat in the eggs and gradually fold in the flour mixture. Stir in the chocolate chips.
- 4) When the mixture is like dough, split in two and roll each into a sausage shape with a 5cm diameter. Cut each roll into slices about 2cm thick and lay the rounds on a greased/lined baking tray.
- 5) Bake on the middle shelf for 10-12 minutes. Leave to cool and add to your newly made pouches!

(Get help from Dad if you use an electric mixer and when using the oven. If Mum doesn't fancy chocolate chips, simply replace them with something else, like raisins or nuts. Baking should be fun and it's practically science so experiment and see what masterpieces you can create - why not add some food colouring to brighten up Mum's day. How about a fruitier option? Replace the chocolate chips with dried strawberries - simply slice fresh strawberries, sprinkle with sugar and bake at 140C/275F/Gas 1 for two hours, then leave to cool before adding as normal. These taste great with whipped cream!)