

# Mini-Me Hand Charms

Kids create tiny trinkets from models of their handprints. Makes a great gift!



## Materials

- one 5 ½- by 8 ½-inch sheet of shrink film per child (available from amazon.com and toy and craft supply stores)
- pencils
- color markers
- scissors
- hole punch
- baking sheets
- parchment paper (for baking)
- oven
- two-foot length of yarn or key ring (one per child)

## Tips

- *Work with children in groups of four or fewer to make the project.*
- *Provide close adult supervision when using an oven for the project.*

## Before You Start

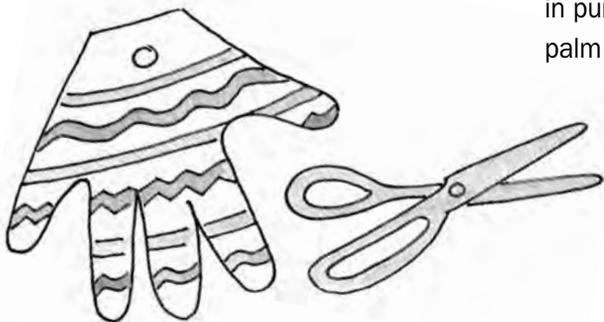
If shrink film or an oven is unavailable, precut 6- by 9-inch white construction paper to substitute for the shrink film (see Alternate Directions, page 15).

## Introducing the Project

Ask children to examine their hands and describe what they see. Invite them to name positive ways that they can use their hands. List their suggestions on chart paper. Then choose and share a book from Book Links (page 15) with children. Have them compare the use of hands in the book to their list. Add any new suggestions to the list. When finished, tell children that they will make a miniature version of their hand as a reminder of the good things that their hands can do.

## Making the Project

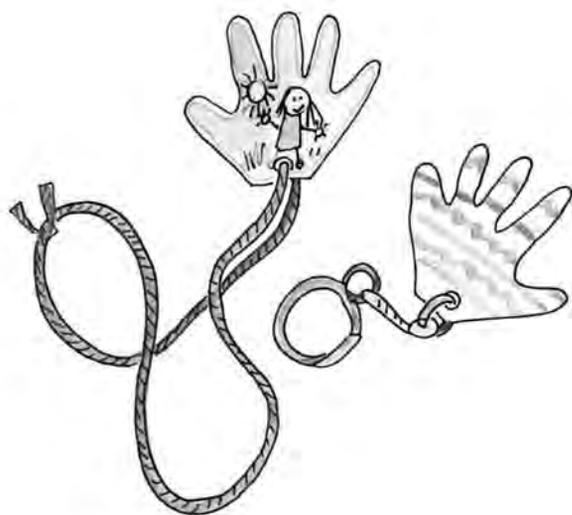
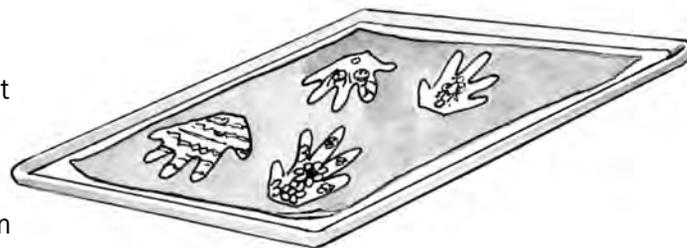
- 1 Divide the class into small groups. Give each child a sheet of shrink film. Ask children to place one hand flat on the shrink film and spread their fingers. Then have them use a pencil to trace around their hand.
- 2 Invite children to decorate their hand tracings with color markers.
- 3 Help children cut out their hand tracings. Then assist them in punching a hole about ½ inch away from the edge of the palm end of the cutout (as shown).



4 Preheat the oven to 300°F. Line the baking sheets with parchment paper. (Note: Do not bake the shrink film on bare metal!) Have children place their handprint on the baking sheet and then write their initials on the paper near it. Cover the handprints with additional parchment paper.

5 Bake the handprints for 2–3 minutes, removing them when they lie flat (they will curl first and then flatten). The handprints will shrink from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their original size. Set them aside to cool.

6 Help children thread a length of yarn through the hole and tie the ends together to create a necklace. Or help them attach a key ring to their mini-hand charm.



## Alternate Directions

If shrink film or an oven is unavailable, have children trace their hand onto a 6- by 9-inch sheet of white construction paper. Reduce the handprint tracings by about 50% on your copy machine. Invite children to decorate and cut out their miniature outlines and then laminate them. Finally, help children punch a hole and attach yarn or a key chain to their mini-hand charm.

## Using the Project

Invite children to show their hand charm to the class and share three of their favorite ways to use their hands to learn and to help others.

## Book Links

### ***Hands!***

by Virginia L. Kroll  
(Boyd's Mills Press, 1997)

*This concept book looks at the many ways we use our hands.*

### ***Hands, Hands, Hands***

by Marcia K. Vaughan  
(Mondo, 1995)

*With the help of an imaginary creature, children discover they can use their hands to tickle, plant, feel, grab, catch, and much more.*

### ***These Hands***

by Hope Lynne Price  
(Hyperion Books for Children, 1999)  
*The simple rhyming text in this self-empowering book follows how a girl uses her hands throughout the day.*

### ***I Call My Hand Gentle***

by Amanda Haan  
(Viking, 2003)  
*This beautiful and provocative story explores themes of peace, violence, and responsibility while focusing on the many things hands can do.*