

Prying children away from the media muckathon of peer culture is not easy. The following activity is a real winner in that regard providing weeks of non stop activity but also helps children take their first step from a wonder-full visible creation to an equally wonder-full but invisible creator.

The first step is making a simple leaf and flower press from two 12 inch squares cut from a cardboard box. The leaves, flowers, or grasses are placed in the press between sheets of brown grocery bag. Add books or bricks for weight and in about 2 weeks everything will be dried. Cut a piece of typing paper in half and place it on a sheet of wax paper. Arrange your pressed leaves on the paper. Gently divide a facial tissue into two sheets and let one ply fall gently over the dried leaves. Spray the tissue with a mixture of one part white glue (Elmers) and four parts water. Allow to dry overnight and trim with scissors. A less messy way is to cover the leaves with clear shelf paper.

The Thank You Card Factory

Make a list of invisible character qualities: loyal, patient, forgiving, generous, gentle, honest, hopeful, unselfish, encouraging, energetic, unafraid, a peace maker etc. Let the children choose the character quality they admire most and then ask each child to think of a person who has that trait in abundance. Get out your pressed grass and tissue paper cards and turn them into thank you cards. Inside each one write: "Thank you for being forgiving" or "Thank you for your faith". The idea is that children should see that character qualities are like a rainbow, invisible but nevertheless very beautiful and that that rainbow shines in their hearts and the hearts of others. Learning to VALUE this invisible rainbow should begin early in life. It is also the deepest and surest protection any child could have against peer pressure or media muck.

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