



# Carlton Cards Fun Valentine's Day Suggestions for Crafty Kids



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**Mississauga, Ontario (January - 2017)** - The Carlton Cards trend experts have found something fun crafts to do with the kids to help you get into the festive Valentine's Day spirit. It's a great time of year to spend a little time together being creative and teaching your children the importance of expressing love and appreciation for others.

Check out these fun ideas that are perfect to fill a winter afternoon with love and laughter as you work together on your special project!

**One of a kind gift:** It's easy to make a Valentine's Day gift out of old crayons and heart-shaped silicone muffin trays. First gather up all the extra or broken crayons and get the kids to remove the paper wrapping. Have an adult coarsely chop up the crayons with a knife. Now the fun begins! Have the kids fill the muffin tray with the crayons, mixing and matching colours as they please. Take inspiration from Elsa from the movie Frozen using blues, white and silver crayons for an icy masterpiece or create a camouflage inspired crayon by mixing greens, browns and beiges. Place the filled muffin trays in an oven preheated at 275 degrees for approximately 8 minutes. Make sure you keep your eye on them as they melt to make sure they don't burn. Let the crayons cool completely in the muffin tray and then remove your newly created and awesome crayons that are perfect for gifting for Valentine's Day.

**Lollipop Flowers:** If you want to create gifts for a larger group, we have a very sweet idea. You will need a bag or two of wrapped lollipops, crepe paper streamers, clear tape and scissors. First cut about 30 cm of clear tape and place the sticky side up on your work space. Start folding the crepe paper streamers in small pleats and place onto half of the tape width as you go along. Keeping half of the tape exposed will be used for wrapping around the lollipop. When you have completed pleating the crepe paper the length of the tape, cut the crepe paper. Now start wrapping crepe paper around the lollipop, adhering the tape to the stick firmly. Continue wrapping until you have come to end and wrap a little more tape to around the base to make sure everything is secure. Fluff up the flower and you have created a gift that looks good enough to eat! If your children's hands are a little too small to manage folding the crepe paper, you can always use colourful baking cups. Just make a hole in the centre of the cups and insert the lollipop stick. Gather the baking cups at the base and secure with tape.

**Magic of paper doilies:** Add a little Valentine décor to your home by embellishing items you already have with paper doilies. Fancy up that glass vase or mason jar by placing a heart shaped doily with a red hand cut heart on the front and wrap securely with some yarn or twine for a country look. Fill the jar or vase with twigs you have gathered from outdoors and hang hand cut paper hearts tied with red and pink string to complete the look. You could also create a sweet garland for the fireplace or over the door by attaching different size and colour doilies with mini clothespins to a pretty ribbon.

**Heart filled dream catcher:** To make, gather up floral wire prewrapped in craft paper or large pipe cleaner, wire cutters, some pretty yarn and scissors. Measure and cut a length of floral wire and bend into a heart shape, twisting the ends to secure. Take some yarn and wrap around the area that you have secured and pull the yarn across the heart, wrapping around the wire. Continue weaving and wrapping the yarn around the heart until you are happy with the result, ending with a secure knot. Add a string at the top so you can hang. For Valentine's Day, add a special message on a piece of paper and insert between the yarn. Maybe make a few because you will certainly want to keep some for yourself and display all year round!

#### About Carlton Cards Ltd.

Carlton Cards Ltd. is a subsidiary of American Greetings with corporate headquarters in Mississauga, Ontario. For over 95 years Carlton Cards Ltd. has been helping consumers enhance their relationships to create happiness, laughter and love. The Company offers seven English speaking brands: Carlton Cards, American Greetings, Papyrus, Recycled Paper Greetings, Gibson, Tender Thoughts and Today and Always as well as three French speaking brands: Cartes Carlton, Papyrus and Tout en Tendresse. For more information on the Corporation visit <http://www.carltoncards.ca/>

#### About American Greetings Corporation

For more than 100 years, American Greetings Corporation has been a creator and manufacturer of innovative social expression products. Along with greeting cards, its product lines include paper product offerings which include DesignWare party goods and American Greetings and Plus Mark gift-wrap, boxed cards and electronic greetings. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, American Greetings generates annual revenue of approximately \$1.9 billion. For more information on the Company, visit <http://corporate.americangreetings.com/>

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