

Spirit Trees for Ages 3 to 6 Years Old



Creating Spirit Trees plaques are a wonderful way to begin the conversation with young children about our relationship to the Divine. Children use their creativity, a gift of Spirit, through choosing colors for their tree trunk, backdrop, leaves, and flowers. At this age they love to paste on stickers and glue on leaves. They can choose the words representing the divine qualities they wish to embody (placed on the “nutrients”): words like “love,” “joy,” and “peace,”; and the ways they would like those qualities to express out into the world through them (placed on the leaves) like “friendship,” and “family”.

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Materials

Step 1. Creating “Nutrients”

Round clear glass tile cabochons – approximately 1” in diameter

Magazines or colored paper

Sharpie® pens

Ballpoint pen or pencil

Glitter glue

Scissors

Tissues

Step 2. Spirit Backdrops

Boards for backdrop with holes drilled for hanging

Trees cut from colored cardstock

Hot glue gun

Glue sticks

Glass of water for burns

Step 3. Tissue Paper Leaves

Tissue paper, cut in squares, approximately 12 x10 inches

Hot glue gun

Glue sticks

Glass of water for burns

Step 4. Individual Leaves

Leaves or blossoms cut from cardstock in multiple colors

Glitter glue

Scratch paper or small cups for glue

Paintbrushes

Water cup for dirty paintbrushes

Sharpie® fine pen or ballpoint pens

Step 5. Add Glitter and other Decorations

Glitter glue sticks

Decorations, including butterfly stickers, flower stickers, and jeweled flowers.

Glitter glue

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Step 1. Creating “Nutrients”

Each person makes up to 3 “nutrients.” It is important to use Sharpie pens to write the words so the ink won’t smear when you glue it to the glass medallion.

- 1) Think about what soul qualities or qualities of the Divine you would like to have in your life. Ideas include: peace, love, joy, caring, creativity, strength, courage, etc. (You can focus on just one or two. Gandhi changed the world by focusing on harmlessness (ahimsa) and truthfulness (satya.)
- 2) Take a glass cabochon.
- 3) Find a magazine picture where the background color is fairly uniform and light colored, or use light colored paper. Trace around the glass cabochon and cut out the circle. Make it slightly smaller than the drawn circle.
- 4) Using Sharpie pens, write in a “nutrient” word, such as love, joy, peace, helpfulness, kindness, compassion, etc. Adults can do the writing for younger children.
- 5) Put glitter glue on face of word. Smear all around with your finger! Wipe fingers with tissues
- 6) Place glass cabochon on top of word, and press out all of the air bubbles.
- 7) Turn upside down and let dry



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Step 2. Gluing Trunks onto Spirit Backdrop

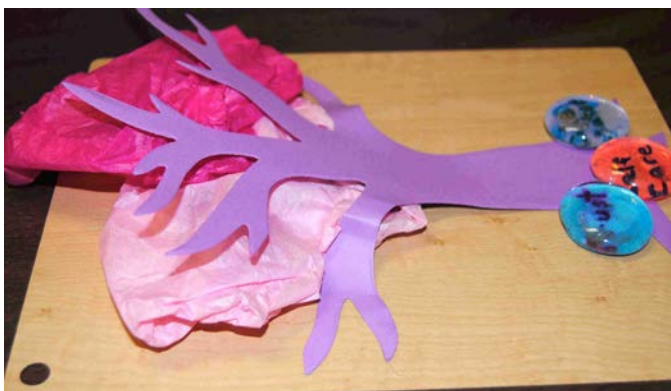
- 1) Have student choose a backdrop. This represents Spirit all around us! We used laminate boards that had been donated. Anything fairly stiff can be use. Make sure you drill holes in the two top corners before you use the board.
- 2) Have child choose a tree. This represents us! Tree shapes can be cut from colored cardstock.
- 3) Adult hot glues roots on backdrop. Use low-temperature hot glue, and have a glass of water nearby for safety.
- 4) Adult hot glues left hand branch onto backdrop.
- 5) Adult hot glues right hand branch onto backdrop, allowing the tree branches to “Gap”! Make sure you get the gap in there so in the next step we can put the tissue paper behind!



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Step 3. Stuffing Tissue Paper behind Branches and Hot Gluing Nutrients

- 1) Have child choose two colors of tissue paper. It's nice to have them the same sort of color, like light pink and dark pink. Of course, the kids can choose anything!
- 2) Crumple the straight edges under, creating a puff of leaves
- 3) Put it under branches, stretching and expanding the tissue paper, or making them smaller, until they fit.
- 4) Carefully hot glue the tissue to the backdrop and branches
- 5) Hot glue the “nutrients” to the base of the tree, in the soil



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Step 4. Gluing leaves onto tissue paper leaves and branches.

- 1) Cut about 15 leaf or blossom shapes from cardstock
- 2) Write some words on the leaves or blossoms expressing how Spirit expresses in your life. For example: friends, family, love, kindness, light, joy, fun, etc. Kids can just draw hearts or stars as well. Use Sharpie fine pen, or ballpoint pen, so it will not smear when glitter is placed on top!



- 3) Place a dab of glitter glue in a small cup or on scratch paper. With a paintbrush, put some glitter glue on the back of the leaf or blossom. Press onto the trunk of the tree, or the tissue paper.



- 4) Add a small dab of glitter glue to the front of some of the leaves; just a little bit adds a nice accent.



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Step 5. Add fruit, flowers, butterflies and glitter

- 1) Add stickers, flower jewels, and other decorations, if desired. These represent the fruit of our life, our gift to the rest of the world!
- 2) Place Butterfly stickers on tree!
- 3) Add glitter onto tree trunk, branches and leaves.



Enjoy!