

# Memorial Day Activities

## Infants (Birth–12 months)

### 1) Red, White & Blue Sensory Board

**Materials:** red/white/blue fabric scraps or paper, sturdy board, contact paper/packing tape

**Directions:**

1. Secure fabric/paper to a board and cover with contact paper so nothing lifts.
  2. Sit the baby on your lap and let them touch one section at a time.
  3. Narrate: “Soft... red... blue... gentle.”
  4. Keep it short (1–3 minutes).
- 

### 2) Gentle “Thank You” Music & Sway

**Materials:** calm music, scarf (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Play soft music and sway with the baby.
  2. Say: “Thank you” and “gentle” in a calm voice.
  3. Move the scarf slowly up/down and let the baby watch and reach.
- 

### 3) Handprint Keepsake Heart

**Materials:** paper heart, baby-safe paint/ink pad, wipes, marker

**Directions:**



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

1. Help the baby make a handprint on the heart.
  2. Write: "Thank you for taking care of me." + date.
  3. Send home as a keepsake.
- 

## Young Toddlers (1–2 years)

### 1) Kindness Flag Sticker Art

**Materials:** paper rectangles, stickers, crayons

**Directions:**

1. Give each child a paper "flag."
  2. Toddlers add stickers and scribbles.
  3. An adult writes: "Kindness" or "Thank you."
  4. Hang as a class display.
- 

### 2) "Help Our Classroom" Mini Helper Jobs

**Materials:** basket, soft cloths/wipes (per policy), picture job cards (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Tell toddlers: "We show respect by helping."
  2. Do 2–3 tiny jobs together: put books away, wipe tables, place toys in bins.
  3. Celebrate: "You helped our classroom!"
- 

### 3) Quiet Hands, Quiet Feet Game



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

**Materials:** none

**Directions:**

1. Practice: “Quiet hands” (hands on lap) and “quiet feet” (stand still).
  2. Switch between “move” (march 5 steps) and “quiet” (freeze).
  3. Repeat 4–6 rounds.
- 

## Older Toddlers (2–3 years)

### 1) Poppy Process Art

**Materials:** red tissue paper squares, glue stick, green paper, crayons

**Directions:**

1. Children crumple red tissue into “poppy” balls.
  2. Glue onto paper; add a green stem.
  3. Say: “Poppies are a symbol of remembrance.” (One sentence is enough.)
- 

### 2) “Thank You” Card Station

**Materials:** folded paper, crayons/markers, stickers

**Directions:**

1. Children decorate a card for a caregiver or community helper.
  2. An adult writes a dictated message: “Thank you for helping people.”
  3. Deliver/send home.
- 



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

### 3) “Slow Parade” March + Pause

**Materials:** drum or gentle music (optional)

**Directions:**

1. March slowly in a circle.
  2. Stop and place hands on heart for 5 seconds.
  3. Repeat 2–3 times.
  4. End with: “We were respectful.”
- 

## Preschool (3–5 years)

### 1) Gratitude Garland (Class Display)

**Materials:** paper circles/strips, markers, string, tape/stapler

**Directions:**

1. Ask: “Who helps keep our community safe?”
  2. Kids draw/write a thank you (family, helpers, veterans, etc.).
  3. Connect into a garland and hang it up.
  4. Read a few each day.
- 

### 2) Classroom “Peace Garden”

**Materials:** paper flowers, crayons, tape, large poster paper

**Directions:**



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

1. Explain: "We can honor people by spreading peace and kindness."
  2. Kids decorate paper flowers with kind words.
  3. Add to a poster titled: "Our Peace Garden."
  4. Display all week.
- 

### 3) Read-Aloud + Respect Routine

**Materials:** a simple book about helpers/peace, calm corner breathing visual (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Read a short story.
  2. Ask: "How can we show respect?"
  3. Practice a 30-second routine: hands on heart + 3 slow breaths.
- 

## School Age (6+)

### 1) Service-in-Action Project (Class or Playground)

**Materials:** gloves (optional), trash bag, sanitizer, adult supervision

**Directions:**

1. Choose a small service task: pick up litter, tidy the playground, organize classroom supplies.
2. Discuss: "Service is one way to honor others."
3. Reflect: "How did we help our space?"



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

---

## 2) Memorial Day “Thank You” Letters

**Materials:** paper, pencils, envelopes (optional)

**Directions:**

1. Students write a short letter to a caregiver, veteran family member, or community helper.
  2. Prompts: “Thank you for...” “I appreciate...” “You help by...”
  3. Decorate and send home.
- 

## 3) Poppy Math + Patterns

**Materials:** red paper circles, black dots, green stems (paper), glue

**Directions:**

1. Make poppies with paper shapes.
2. Add math: create patterns (red-black-red-black), count totals, compare sets.
3. Optional: create a class mural.



Free resource developed by [www.ChildCareED.com](http://www.ChildCareED.com)

Licensed Under [CCBY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)