

# Holiday Helps

Ideas for Early Childhood Classrooms

With hectic schedules and weather limitations, winter is a time when people often need encouragement. Use this fun craft to encourage the children you teach and to help them encourage others.

## Angel Encouragement Bags

### What You'll Need

- small paper sacks (1 per child)
- crayons or markers
- cardboard or poster board
- construction paper
- bubble wrap
- shredded crinkle paper or yarn
- gold chenille wires (1 per child)
- tacky craft glue
- scissors
- tape
- (optional: glitter or glitter glue)

### Tip

Small party-favor sacks can be purchased at many craft or party supply stores.

### What You Do

1. With a paper sack laid flat, draw a face on one side of the sack. Add color to the eyes, cheeks, and mouth as desired.
2. Draw and cut a heart pattern from cardboard or poster board. Trace two hearts on construction paper and four hearts on bubble wrap. Cut out the hearts. For each angel wing, glue a paper heart between two bubble-wrap hearts (bubbles facing out). If desired, put glue on the trim of each wing and add glitter.
3. Glue the wings to the back of the paper sack, points facing each other. (Hint: Jumbo paper clips can be used to hold the wings in place until the glue dries.) Glue shredded crinkle paper or yarn around the top of the sack for hair. Form a circle with the gold chenille wire and tape it to the back edge of the sack as a halo.

Fill the bags with notes of encouragement, stickers, and small prizes or treats. Pull out a note or a treat and give it to someone whenever a special encouragement is needed.

### Another Idea!

Place inside each child's angel bag a special item that relates to the day's Bible story. Have kids look in their bags and discover the items as you tell the story. Or decorate a bulletin board with angel bags. Inside the bags, place good news messages kids can find.

