

How to Make an Arbor Day Family Tree

Supplies:

- Paper (cardstock or something thicker works best) or canvas
- Paint – brown, green, and optional pink, white or other flower color
- Paintbrush

Instructions:

1. Brush brown paint onto your child's hand and place handprint on paper in the upper portion of the paper. These are your branches! Wipe or wash hand clean.
2. Use brush (or finger) to paint a tree trunk from the handprint down to the bottom of the paper. Allow this paint to dry.
3. Use fingers to make fingerprint leaves (and/or flowers) on your tree! This is where kids can get really creative!
4. Allow to dry and add name to the masterpiece! (Bonus if you want to create a scientific name for your tree – I used last name for the genus and first name/nickname for the specific epithet!)

Variations:

- Don't have paint (or simply don't want to deal with any paint mess!)? Trace your child's hand and arm onto construction paper and cut out to make the tree trunk and branches. Attach the tree trunk and branches onto another piece of paper. Then use small pieces of crumpled up tissue paper or pieces of colored paper to attach as the leaves and/or flowers.
- Even easier and (should be) zero mess option: Use markers (not zero mess with my kids), colored pencils or crayons to trace the hand and arm, and then have your child color it in and draw on the leaves and/or flowers.
- Want to create a complete family tree with all the members of the family together (or at least all the kids together)? Layer the handprints on top of each other using varying colors (if using paint this works best on something sturdy like canvas or art paper meant for holding up to paint), starting with the largest handprint. Allow each layer to dry before adding the next one. Have everyone in the family add leaves and/or flowers to create unique and varying sized leaves and flowers!