

Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Valentine's Day Grid Deskmat

This **Valentine's Day Grid Deskmat** is perfect for fostering math concepts of sorting, counting, and graphing while you celebrate.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 32 Valentine's Day deskmats
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

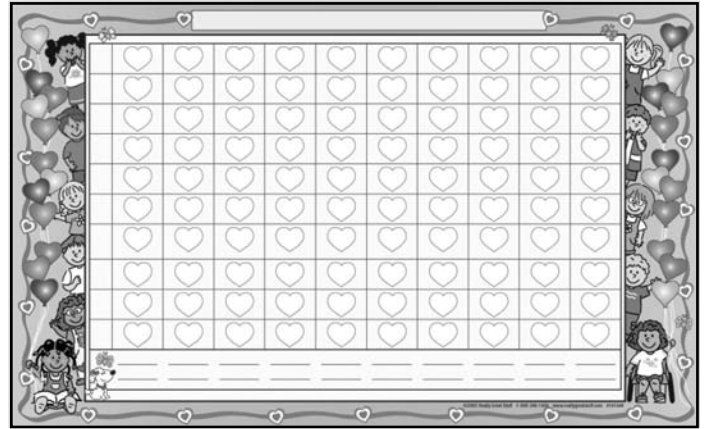
Directions for Basic Use

This Deskmat Grid is designed so children can use a variety of different items, such as Valentine card varieties, Valentine candies, answers to Valentine riddles, etc. This kit comes complete with a transparent version of the grid, to be used with an overhead projector to demonstrate activities to the children. Read on to discover many different and fun ways children can use this grid deskmat.

Graphing Valentine Cards

(Skills: sorting, counting, problem-solving)

1. Use the horizontal spaces along the bottom of the mat to identify the types of Valentine cards. For example, you might label the spaces as follows:
 - funny cards
 - riddle cards
 - superhero cards
 - flowery cards
 - TV character cards
 - other
2. Label the transparent mat the same way you direct children to label their deskmats. (You may label this first and have children copy your labels.)
3. Have children sort their cards beneath each label. If any one card fits two categories, have children select one category to place the card in for now.
4. Have children count the number of cards beneath each category and color in that number of spaces on the grid, creating a bar graph.
5. Have children count the number of cards in each category.
6. Have children add the total number of cards they each received. (Have them volunteer to share the different ways they arrived at their answers.)
7. Challenge the class to decide on a method for telling how many cards they received in all in each category and how many cards they received in all as a group.
8. If children report they have cards that they placed in the "Other" category, ask the children to tell how they would classify these cards. Print these extra labels or categories on the board. Ask if other



children received Valentines belonging to these categories and count the total number of each of these card types, too.

Fraction Graph

(Skills: colors, counting, fractions, problem-solving)

1. Have a supply of candy Conversation Hearts available. Label your overhead mat with the colors that coordinate with the hearts. Place the hearts in a container.
2. Invite each child to reach into the container and pull out a handful of candies.
3. Have each child count his or her candies, sort them by color, then place each candy above its color label so they can quickly see how many of each color they have.
4. Ask: What is the total number of hearts you have? Which color did you have the most of? Which color did you have the least of? Which color did you have the same number of? What fractional amount did you have of each color?
5. Invite the children to eat their hearts.

Spelling Graph Game

(Skills: spelling, reading)

1. Use the transparent mat to label nine boxes across with the letters that spell VALENTINE. Have children use the spaces above each letter to spell words beginning with that letter.
2. The first child to complete the entire grid with correctly spelled words is the winner.

(Tip: After playing this spelling game, it is still possible to use the grid to graph Valentine Cards. Simply have children erase letter labels and replace with Valentine card criteria.)

