

Ten Great (and Inexpensive!) Mother's Day Gifts

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1) Handpick some dandelions. They can be pretty when tied in a bunch with a ribbon.



2) Write a book. It can be a story or simply a list, such as Why My Mom Is So Great. Add your own illustrations.

3) Organize the family junk drawer. If your family has a disorganized drawer that serves as a catchall, you'd be doing your mom—and everyone else!—a big favor by tidying it up. (Watch for sharp objects!)



4) Engrave a candle. Buy a large candle, and use a mechanical pencil with no lead in it to engrave a message. You might write #1 MOM or draw your own design. Push hard with the pencil tip into the side of the candle, and wipe away excess wax chunks with a paper towel.

5) Plan a picnic in your own backyard. If it rains, have the picnic in your family room or on a porch.

6) Make up a song in honor of your mother. Perform it live, then give her a prerecorded version.

7) Make a cold pack. Cut off the foot part of an old, clean sock (with no holes!). Fill it with uncooked rice, tie it tightly with a ribbon, and freeze it. It's an excellent cold pack for a headache or a sore muscle.



8) Give Mom a ten-minute shoulder rub. Start with slow, circling motions using your entire hand, then progress to a deeper rub with your thumbs.



9) Create a greeting-card puzzle. Draw a big Mother's Day greeting or a scene on a piece of construction paper. Glue it to poster board or thin cardboard. When dry, cut it into puzzle-sized pieces, and put them in an envelope.

10) Make homemade rubbing salts. Mix one cup of coarse salt (such as kosher salt) with a half-cup of olive oil. Put the paste in a jar with a lid. Your mom can use this mixture in the shower or bath instead of soap and lotion.



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