

# ART | Rosary Stepping Stones



## MATERIALS:

- Cement
- Bucket
- Plastic or paper cups
- Stir sticks
- Molds (old plastic margarine tubs, plastic pots, plastic containers etc.)
- Clear glitter
- Seashells, coloured rocks, aquarium stones (optional)

## ACTIVITY:

1. Choose your molds and set them on the cardboard or paper. The large (3 lb) plastic margarine container made a nice size. The 5" plastic throw-away pots that plants come from the nursery in are also a good size.
2. For different sizes and shapes, you can use almost any plastic; container that has a flat bottom and smooth; straight up-and-down or slightly flared-out sides: The molds cannot be used for food again.
3. In an old bucket, mix your cement and water a 2 to 1 ratio. If you use 10 plastic cups (6 oz.) of cement to 5 cups water can make 5 stones, 4 ½ inches in diameter and about 2" thick. (Use plain cement. If you are using a commercial product with aggregate, use the amount of water specified on the bag.)
4. Stir to mix thoroughly so your mixture should be about as thick as cake batter. Pour your mixture into the molds to a depth of 1" to 2". Tap the sides of your mold as you would a cake pan full of batter to remove air bubbles. Try not to shake much of your "batter" up onto the side of your mold.
5. At this point you can 'salt' the top of your stones with a light sprinkling of clear glitter if you wish. When dry, the glitter will give a hint sparkle to your stones.
6. Allow your stepping-stones to set for about 45 minute to 1 hour. Concrete cures at a rate that varies depending to the heat and humidity. (Before you start, you can create a 2" test pour in a small plastic cup, to determine when our cement was ready to mark.)
7. When your cement has set to the consistency of heavy mud, carefully press your hand into the cement. Wash hands and feet off immediately. It's best to use an outside hose over the grass.
8. Allow your cement to continue drying for at least 4 hours before unmolding. Carefully pull the sides of the mold away from the cement all the way around to loosen. Some molds will be more flexible than others; you can't move the sides very far, this is just to break any seal. Turn the pot over, and holding your hand over the top to catch the stone, tap the bottom of the mold. Your stone should pop out into your hand easily.
9. At this point, using the sharp tip of a nail tile or a nail, you can write the child's name or the date on the side of your stone. Brush off loose crumbs with your finger.

10. Put the unmolded stone on your cardboard or paper and allow it 10  
Continue to cure for about 24 hours until it is completely hard and dry.
11. If you do not want to make hand or foot prints on your stones, you can  
decorate the top with small seashells, coloured rocks, or glass aquarium  
stones. Decorate the tops of the stones when the cement has set enough to hold  
their weight.
12. Use your finished stones in your flowerbeds wherever you need them or line a path with  
them. You can even make a "stepping rosary" with them. You can form a unique:  
"stepping rosary" with your cement stepping-stones. Choose round molds of two sizes:  
one for the Hail Mary beads and one for the Our Father beads. If your garden is large  
enough, you can make an entire rosary, or limit yourself to making a one-decade rosary.
13. A decade includes 10 Hail Mary beads and one Our Father bead. Make cement cross to  
go with your stepping-stones. Place your "stepping rosary" in a section of your garden  
planted with a low-growing herbal groundcover.

