



## Let's Celebrate Tomie DePaola and *Strega Nona*!

*Strega Nona* is a timeless classic tale written by Tomie DePaola. 2009 celebrates the 34<sup>th</sup> year that *Strega Nona*, Big Anthony and the magic pasta pot were first introduced to children. Join the fun as we "Boil us some pasta, nice and hot!"

### PROGRAM PLANS

This program will work quite well for children in grades Kindergarten – grade 3. Set the scene of the story by dressing like *Strega Nona*, babushka and all. Set up the magic pasta pot next to your storytelling chair...a black plastic cauldron will work great. Be sure to fill the magic pot with strands and strands of cream-colored yarn (pasta). As the children enter the program, give them additional strands of "pasta" which they may add to the magic pasta pot during the story.

### BOOKS

*Strega Nona* by Tomie DePaola.

When *Strega Nona* leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot,

Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

Before you begin the telling of *Strega Nona*, share information about Tomie DePaola. His website [www.tomie.com](http://www.tomie.com) gives a complete background of his life and writings. Also during your introduction of *Strega Nona*, teach the children the refrain:

*Bubble, bubble, pasta pot,  
Boil me some pasta, nice and hot,  
I'm hungry and it's time to sup,  
Boil enough pasta to fill me up.*

They will enjoy repeating it with you as you tell the story. The children can then add their "pasta" during the part of the story when the magic pot overflows with pasta.

### ACTIVITIES

Have fun with paints and pasta! For the following activities, you will need these supplies:

Uncooked spaghetti

Cooked spaghetti

Various pastas such as rotini, lasagna, bow tie noodles

Water colors

Tacky glue

Cardboard, 8" x 8"

White paper, 12" x 12" or larger

Thin paint brushes

Soft rubber bands

Paper bowls

Art shirts

### *Pasta Painting*

Bound various amounts of uncooked spaghetti together using soft rubber bands.

Dip pasta tip into paint in bowl.

And then create! The children can then dab, stroke, drag the “pasta paint brushes” across the paper to create different patterns and textures. Keeping the rubber bands loose will allow the spaghetti to fan out and children can paint using different textures.

For additional fun let the children experiment with other pasta shapes such as bow tie pasta, rotini, and mostaccioli and watch them create their own pasta masterpieces!

### *Macaroni Mosaics*

Let children break lasagna noodles into various sized pieces.

Using tacky glue, have the children glue the lasagna pieces onto cardboard squares, 8” x 8” to create a “mosaic.” In creating mosaics, pieces should not touch or overlap.

With watercolors or watered-down acrylic paints, let the children paint their mosaics.

No two *Macaroni Mosaics* will look the same because of the children’s creativity and imagination!

### *Splattering Spaghetti*

Be adventurous, Librarians! Guaranteed, the children will love this one!

Cook large quantities of spaghetti. If allergy concerns arise, use gluten-free pasta.

Adhere large pieces of white paper, 12” x 12” or larger, to the wall using paint tape. Also have old plastic tablecloths behind the art paper and on the floor.

Let the children take a small handful of cooked spaghetti and dip it into a plate of colorful acrylic paint.

Let the fun begin! The children will then throw the spaghetti onto the art paper. The spaghetti will fall, but the paint will create colorful splatters.

Repeat using different colors and various amounts of pasta until the paper is full of color. Paint does not need to be reapplied after each throw!

**More information or questions?**

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