Title: **Wrap It Up**

Life Skill Area: Managing Resources

**LIFE SKILLS TAUGHT**
- Uncommon uses for common items
- Basic art principles
- How to make unique gift wrapping
- How to have fun and be productive with limited money

**Managing Resources**

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. Plain paper, white or brown, in large sheets or rolls, and/or medium-to small-size plain paper sacks
2. Card stock, cut in gift-card-size squares or rectangles
3. Stamping materials, choose from the following:
   - Purchased sponge letters, numbers
   - Basic household sponges, ½ to 1 inch thick
   - Purchased chubby rubber stamps
4. Scissors
5. Fine point markers
6. Tempera paints, liquid
7. Spring clothespins
8. Paper towels
9. Styrofoam plates
10. Plastic table cover

**PROCEDURES**

1. Cover table with plastic.
2. Choose purchased and/or self-made stamps. To make stamp, draw simple design—flower, fish, star, etc—on sponge. With scissors, carefully cut away outside, leaving only the drawn design. This may be done ahead of time depending upon allowed time and skill level of participants. Remember, basic shapes such as squares, circles, and rectangles are also good to use. A spring clothespin clipped to the top of each sponge stamp may serve as a handle, depending on size and thickness of sponge.
3. Lay paper or sack flat on covered work surface. Pour small amount of tempera paint onto plate. Dip stamp into thin layer of paint.
4. Carefully press stamp onto paper or sack. Repeat with various shapes and colors until desired effect is obtained. May use colorful markers to add details.

5. For matching gift card, repeat above process, using smaller designs. Leave space for writing or write over the painted (and dried) area.

Note: Ordinary fruits and vegetables can make extraordinary stamp designs with very little effort and a sharp knife. While allowing Cloverbuds to use a sharp knife is not advisable, this idea may be explored by either preparing fruit-and-veggie stamps before the Cloverbuds arrive, or utilizing adult or teen leader volunteers for this task. Potatoes, the traditional veggie-stamp, can be halved and carved into many stamp designs. However, with a single slice:

- Carrots become circles or ovals.
- Green peppers reveal their strange perimeters, vertical or horizontal.
- Apples and lemons provide interesting designs.
- Broccoli stems make a great tree shape.
- Caulifloweretts provide another fun design.

**DISCUSSION**
Discuss benefits of creating unique gift wrapping with little expense. Emphasize importance of creativity and free expression. Just like the different gift wrappings/bags/tags, we humans are all unique, but with many similarities. Discuss the satisfaction of giving gifts and bringing joy into others’ lives.

**HOME ACTIVITY**
Use wrapping or bag with gift tag to wrap a special gift from the child.