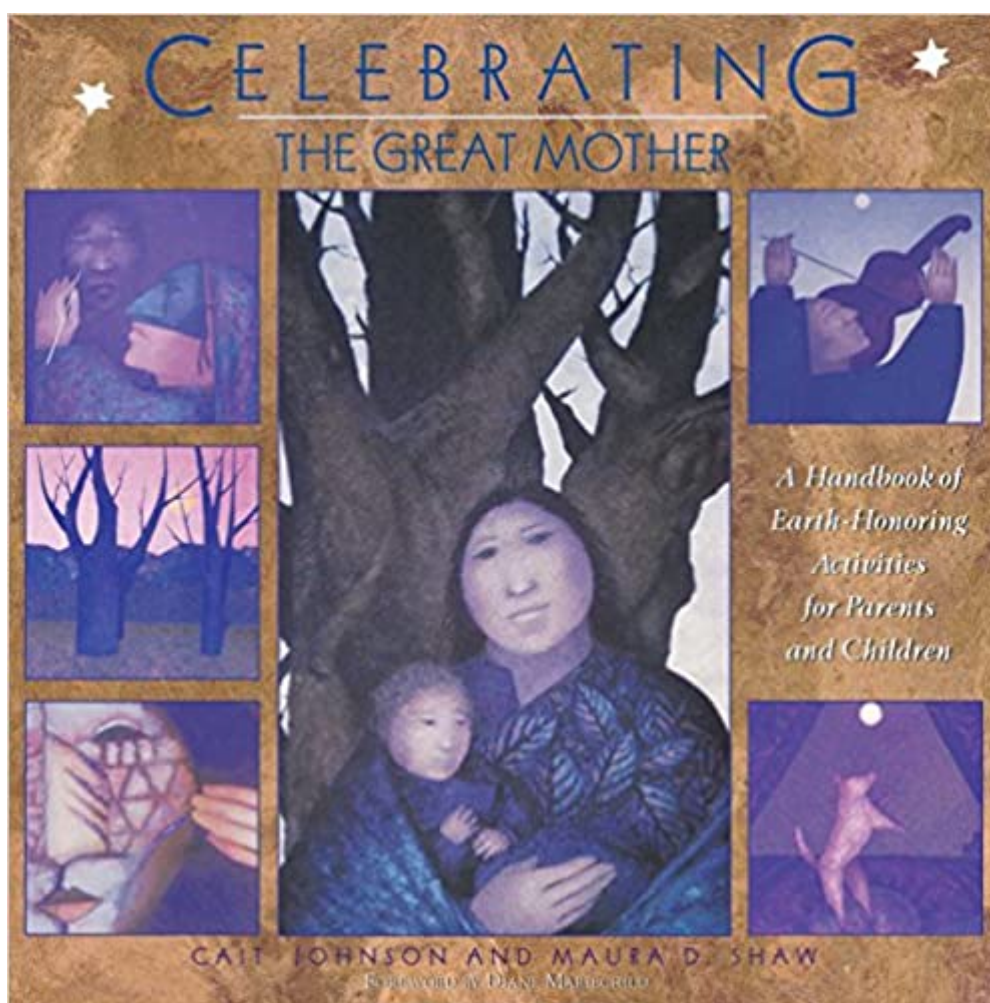


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# Celebrating The Great Mother: A Handbook Of Earth-Honoring Activities For Parents And Children



## Synopsis

Adults have a wide array of books to help explore earth-based spirituality. But what if they want to include their children? Here is a handbook to help parents, caregivers, teachers, and counselors create meaningful spiritual experiences that will inspire children of all ages. The ideas, suggestions, and activities collected here show how to bring children into rituals that celebrate seasonal cycles and help reclaim the spiritual roots of today's modern holidays. With surprisingly little effort, earth-centered activities and rituals can be incorporated into simple daily routines. Part 1, "Handbook for Earth-Connected Parenting," gives techniques for developing a child's inner wisdom and sense of the sacred: dream journals, visualization, Tarot play, talismans, and interactions with the natural world. Part 2 is a guide to the specific seasonal festivals, and offers a comprehensive collection of practical and enjoyable ways to celebrate the sacred days of our ancestors. Make a bean rune divination system, gather smudge sticks, grow grass pots, assemble a "dream pillow," create altars—the authors offer easy-to-follow suggestions. Includes suggested reading and resource sections for locating additional information and materials for creative projects.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Deeply satisfying to read--the real joy is making the celebration/renewal of life real in our own lives and with the children who will bring us a new world." (Brooke Medicine Eagle)"The ideas, suggestions, and activities collected here bring children into rituals that celebrate seasonal cycles

and help reclaim the spiritual roots of today's modern holidays." (Feminist Bookstore News)"For those who have devoted themselves to reawakening Earth Goddess worship, this book will be like coming home, bringing together a multitude of ideas on living with honor, insight and great love. For those who've shied away from earth centered ritual and worship, this book is a map which provides a route of safety through unknown territory. Celebrating the Great Mother is a well-written book with hauntingly beautiful artwork and lovely illustrations throughout, which takes one on a journey of honoring the earth, our families, and our relations with all beings. A journey well worth taking." (Karin Kaplowitz, Talking Leaves)"This is a handbook for those of us--regardless of religious or spiritual beliefs--who want to share our love of the earth with our children, who know how important this is for the future of our planet, and who use some ideas on how to do it." (The Wellspring Guide)

Cait Johnson is an artist and writer who teaches workshops on the Tarot, dream work, and ritual-making. She is the author of *Tarot for Every Day: Ideas and Activities for Bringing Tarot Wisdom into Your Daily Life*. She lives in the Hudson Valley of New York. Maura D. Shaw, a writer and editor, teaches workshops on creative writing and the Tarot. She is the author of *Owl's Journey: Four Centuries of an American County*, and co-author (with Sydna A. Byrne) of *Foods from Mother Earth: A Basic Cookbook for Young Vegetarians (and Anybody Else)*. She lives in Wappingers Falls, New York. Cait Johnson and Maura Shaw are also the co-authors of *Tarot Games: 45 Playful Ways to Explore Tarot Cards Together*, published by Harper San Francisco.

I absolutely love this book! It has proven to be a wonderful resource with ideas on how to incorporate celebrations of the seasons, nature and the earth into the home setting. It could also be readily used in a classroom setting as well. The information is written in an easy to read, conversational style and can easily be applied in a non-spiritual way of celebrating nature and the earth or as part of an earth based or pagan spiritual tradition. There is very minimal use of words associated with Wicca or other religions so it is very unlikely to offend anyone who is uncomfortable with such beliefs or concepts. Although there is a small section related to Runes, Tarot and Divination (but it could easily be skipped over for those who are bothered by such things) the majority of the book focuses on easy, fun & realistic ways to incorporate seasonal/nature/earth based celebrations & traditions with associated activities and crafts for each. For those who are on a Pagan path of any flavor, the book is full of wonderful suggestions, activities that are fun for both kids and adults, many resources & information about other books with further information on the various topics. Overall it's just a great resource for parents (or non-parents) who want to incorporate

such things into their home or classroom setting. This book would be great for kindergarten and grades teachers in Waldorf/Steiner schools and/or other nature based school programs. Some of the topics covered include: Ancient festivals Celebrating the seasons Nature's sacred world Seasonal activities for children About Dreams Solstice celebrations Celebrating Fall and Spring equinox celebrations Celebrating Day of the dead Celebrating Yule Projects- Dream catchers Animal teachers Weed walks Making a talking stick String a native American corn necklace Making a dream pillow Door blessings Costumes/Masks Bean Runes (later planting bean runes) Carve a spirit guide Making a smudge stick Collecting special stones Handmade ornaments for a yule tree Build a sacred winter cave Plant a light garden Make special candles Make a rainstick Make incense Grass pots Make scented oils Make a magic wand Make a sun child crown Make a harvest figure Making herbal ice Discovering seeds Plus an items list for the various projects and activities This is an absolutely wonderful book for those who want to incorporate nature celebrations into their home or classroom.

It wasn't what I thought it would be but I think it will be appreciated by someone who is interested in the things listed in the book. I just got it in the mail and am donating it. I just couldn't get into it and tried a few different times but It's just not for me. I will add that the crafts section is sweet. I appreciate the effort and thought that was put into this book so that's why I give it five stars. But that doesn't mean it's not a wonderful book for someone else. :)

The author simplified the significance of each time of the year, and explained it in a way my five year old could understand. The crafts support the nature/ Mother (Nature, Goddess, why we practice certain things during certain time of the year, etc.) I would've liked more lore, legend, myth.

One of my favorite books for the family. We still refer back to this book for crafts, activities, recipes, and general knowledge. This is a must have book for families practicing the Craft!

I was very pleased with this book on how it is detailed and easy to follow. Beautifully written and supportive in nature's path religions. I finally feel like I can get my two little children involved in Pagan holidays without confusing them or labeling our path. A must for Pagan parents!

This book is well-written, and informative. It has some great activities for family celebrations. It's more based on Native-American beliefs than any other pagan religion, so if that's a problem for you

be aware. We love this book. I wish there were more activities for each Sabbath, but what is there is a great starting point for making your own personal celebrations. Overall, I really like this book.

This is a great primer book for parents who want to introduce earth-based spirituality to their children. I am pagan, and found great ways to teach about our holidays and to reconnect with nature. The craft ideas are great and can be used for preschool-elementary kids. There are great book references in the back as well for parents who want further reading or ideas.

This include thoughtful meditations, and rituals that skip the pomp and focus on the meaning. Their book makes me feel grounded, while at the same time makes my spirit soar. I read a lot, and I'm delighted by their unique ideas. I loved "Circle Round," but I have to say that this book hits at a deeper level. They manage to bridge the gap between the ancient and the modern in simple meaningful ways. I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE this book, and wish there was more!

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