Stepping Stones

Materials needed:

Clear plastic plant drainer, 12" to 14" works well for a nice size stepping stone

Quikrete vinyl patching compound

Marbles, pebbles, stained glass pieces, shells, etc., to decorate your stepping stone

Window screen

Scissors

Vinyl gloves

Water

Mix the vinyl patching compound with enough water to make a brownie batter-like consistency. Pat a layer of the mix into the clear plastic plant drainer, filling it about half full.

Cut a circle out of the window screen, slightly smaller than the diameter of the clear plastic plant drainer. Lay the window screen circle over the first layer of concrete, patting it so it lays flat on the concrete. This provides reinforcement for the stepping stone.

Finish filing the clear plastic plant drainer with concrete, stopping about ¼" from the top rim of the plant drainer.

Smooth the concrete mix with your hand so you have a consistent surface to decorate. If you prefer to have texture on the top of your stepping stone use your fingers to make designs in the wet concrete.

Place small stones, glass beads, marbles, shells, broken crockery, stained glass pieces on the smooth surface of your stepping stone, pressing the pieces into the wet mix so that they are making contact with the surface. It is a good idea to develop your design before you start your stepping stone as the mix will begin to set up within a short period of time. Some water will accumulate on the surface of your stone as you are working with the concrete. Keep some sheets of newspaper handy to lay over the surface- this will help absorb the excess moisture.

Allow the concrete to dry about 24-48 hours, then remove your stepping stone from the plant drainer. You should be able to just turn the stone over and it will come out of the mold easily-no release agent is needed. Using a metal file or a brick, slightly smooth the rough edges of the stepping stone. Seal with a concrete sealer or polyurethane made for outdoor use.

You can purchase press in letters to add names, dates, or words to your stepping stones. Google "Poetry Stones" for sites that sell the lettering sets.