



Turkeys & Giving Thanks

WTG At Home, Weeks 9 & 10

Materials listed in purple will be provided at November 5th Art Pickup

Art Activity: Fall Wreath

Materials: Paper plate circle, fall foam stickers, crayons

Directions: Invite your child to use crayons and the foam stickers to decorate a fall wreath. Hang it up for a cute decoration!



Art Activity: Turkey Handprint Poem

Materials: Colored construction paper (for mounting), white paper with Turkey Poem, paint (brown, red, green, & yellow), paint brush, markers

Directions: Use a paintbrush to paint your child's palm and thumb brown (this is the turkey's body). Paint their other fingers different colors (for the feathers). Carefully print their painted hand on to the white paper with the turkey poem. When paint is dry, invite your child to use markers to add legs, a beak, eyes, and a wattle under the beak. Use glue to mount white paper on to construction paper.



Fine Motor: Feed the Turkey!

Materials: Plastic container with lid, tube-shaped noodles (or other small item such as pom poms, marbles, small balls of playdough), colored construction paper (brown, orange, red, blue, & green), markers.



Directions: Make sure plastic container is clean and dry. Cut a piece of brown construction paper the same size as the lid. Cut a hole in the lid of the container and a matching hole in the paper. Glue the brown paper to the lid of the container. Use markers to draw eyes, a beak (around the hole), and a wattle. Cut “feathers” from different colored paper and glue on (optional).

Once your turkey is dry, have your child feed the turkey by putting the pasta in the turkey’s mouth.

Adaptations: Make the turkey’s mouth bigger, use larger objects for “food” that are easier for your child to grasp.

Extensions: Color the pasta with liquid watercolor or food coloring before beginning. Ask your child to feed the turkey certain colors. Roll a die to decide how many pieces of food to feed the turkey. Using tongs to pick up the turkey’s food can make it more challenging. Put the turkey on one side of your child and the food on the other side of your child to promote [“crossing the midline”](#).

Gross Motor: Turkey Feather Hunt



Materials: Feathers, colored construction paper (brown, orange, red, blue, & green), markers, tape, and container

Directions: Hide “turkey” feathers throughout your house and ask your child to find them!

Extensions: Decorate a container to look like a turkey and use the container to hold the feathers after you find them. Once your child has found the feathers, sort them by color, count them, or put them in order by size.

Fine Motor: Tape Peeling

Materials: Masking or Painters tape. Different colors can add interest, but plain white is fine.

Directions: Tear strips of tape and lay them randomly on to a table or the floor. Putting them on a highchair tray works great for younger toddlers. Ask your child to peel them up. That's it!



Adaptations: Use fewer pieces for younger toddlers. Start with one or two until they get the hang of it. Help them get the tape started by lifting the end of the pieces of tape so they have something to grab on to.



Extensions: Criss cross the pieces back and forth, making layers of tape. Your child will have to do a little thinking to figure out which ones to peel up first. Using different colors helps here, because it makes it easier to see how the tape is laid out and which pieces are on top.

Imaginative Play: Sharing Soup!

Materials: Large soup pot, pretend (or real) vegetables, pretend (or real) seasonings*, spoons, ladle, bowls, etc.



*if using real seasonings, make sure they are sealed

Directions: Can you make some delicious soup? Share your soup with your family and friends.

Extensions: Watch the [Stone Soup read-aloud](#) and act out the story. Take this activity outside and use real water and “ingredients” from nature. Invite your child to find things in the yard they want to add to their “soup.” Maybe you will end up with mud soup!

Imaginative Play: Dinner Party

Materials: Pretend (or real) food, plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc., dolls and/or stuffed animals.

Directions: Dinnertime! Set up a table with plates, cups, napkins, utensils, and food. Have a pretend dinner with dolls, stuffed animals, siblings, and/or family members as guests. Encourage your child to “make” the meal and serve it.

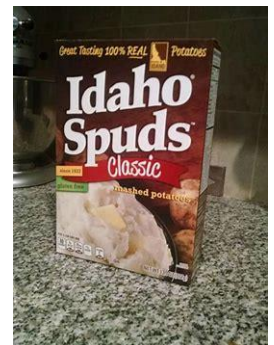


Extensions: Model saying please and thank you while being served “dinner” and encourage please and thank you from your child. Introduce the concept of being thankful and encourage your child to share what they are thankful for.

Sensory Bin: Explore Mashed Potatoes

Materials: Instant Potatoes, spoons, spatulas, miscellaneous kitchen tools

Directions: Fill your sensory bin with instant mashed potatoes. Add spoons, spatulas, etc. and let your child explore. This one is great for all 5 senses!



Extensions: Let your child explore the dry instant potato flakes first. Then add water and see what happens.

Sensory Bin: Washing Dishes

Materials: Water, dish soap, non-breakable dishes, sponges, scrub brush, etc.

Directions: Fill the sensory bin with water and dish soap. Give your child non-breakable dishes to wash in the bin with sponges, scrub brushes, etc.

Extension: Allow your child to add the dish soap to the water. Show them how to stir the water and make the bubbles. Add turkey basters and squirt bottles.



Science: Coloring Mashed Potatoes

Materials: Mashed potatoes (from sensory bin activity above), food coloring

Directions: Add food coloring to the mashed potatoes in the sensory bin. What happens?

Alternative: Add food coloring to cups of water

Extensions: What happens when we increase the amount of food coloring we add? Add multiple colors to the potatoes and see how the colors combine. Ask your child to predict what will happen when you add 2 or more colors.



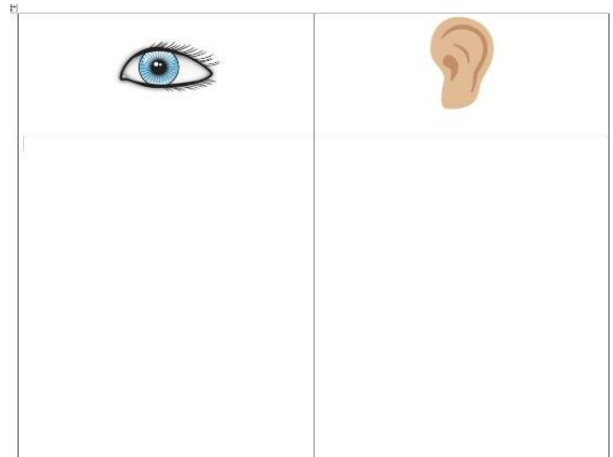
Science: Bird Walk

Materials: Tally sheet, pencil or pen

Directions: Go on a walk in your neighborhood looking for birds. If your child sees a bird on your walk, put a tally mark on the eye side of the tally sheet. If your child hears a bird, put a tally on the ear side of the sheet. When you get home, count how many birds you saw and how many birds you heard.

Adaptions: Go on a bird walk and talk about the birds you see and hear, but don't keep track of how many.

Extensions: Allow your child to carry the tally sheet and record the birds. Did we see or hear more birds? Why do you think that is? Try to identify some of the birds that you saw on your bird walk.



Songs:

[Popcorn Dance by Greg and Steve](#)

[Turkey Hokey Pokey](#)

[Mr Turkey & Mr Duck](#)

[Albuquerque Turkey](#)

Read Alouds:

[Stone Soup, retold by Lesley Sims](#)

[Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks, by Margaret Sutherland and Sonja Lamut](#)

[Thanks for Thanksgiving, by Julie Markes and Doris Barrette](#)

[Turkey Trouble, by Wendy Silvano](#)

[There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Turkey, by Lucille Colandro](#)

