

Getting Ready for Thanksgiving Week

Suggested Books:

Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks by Margaret Sutherland
10 Fat Turkeys by Tony Johnston
Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving by Ann McGovern
...If you Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 by Ann McGovern
The Berentain Bears Give Thanks by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Vocabulary Words:

Pilgrims, Native Americans, Wampanoag, treaty, freedom, Thanksgiving, cornucopia, leather, feathers, turkey, cranberry, moccasins, feast (others you think of)

Songs and Fingerplays:

I am Thankful
(to the tune of "she'll be comin' Round the Mountain")

I am thankful for my doggy and my cat
And my teddy bear so furry, soft and fat,
I am thankful for soft kittens and my nice warm woolen mittens
And my swing set and my baseball and my bat.

I am thankful for my crayons and my books
And the way our brand new baby smiles and looks,
I am thankful for potatoes and for juicy ripe tomatos
And for all the tasty food that mommy cooks.

I am thankful for my mommy and my dad,
They both love me whether I am good or bad,
I am thankful for the flowers and refreshing summer showers
All the pretty things around me make me glad.

Turkey Pokey (to the hokey pokey)
(Give child two feathers to hold)
You put your right wing in,
You put your right wing out,
You put your right wing in and you shake it all about!
You do the Turkey Pokey and you turn yourself around,
That's what it's all about!

You put your left wing in...
You put your beak in...
You put your tail in...
(Etc.)

Hello, Mr. Turkey!

(to the tune of "if you're happy and you know it")
Hello, Mr. Turkey, how are you? (clap, clap)
Hello, Mr. Turkey, how are you? (clap, clap)
With a gobble, gobble, gobble,
And a wobble, wobble, wobble!
Hello, Mr. Turkey, how are you? (clap, clap)

A Thanksgiving Song

(To the tune of "row, row, row your boat")
The Pilgrims sailed away, far across the sea.
They came to America, so they would be free.
The Native Americans taught them to plant corn.
Then they shared a great big feast,
Thanksgiving Day was born!

Thanksgiving Dinner Song

(To the tune of "where is thumbkin")
Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving
Here it comes, here it comes.
Turkey on the table, turkey on the table,
Mmmm, good! Mmmm, good!

Cornbread muffins, chestnut stuffing
Pumpkin pie, ten feet high.
We were so much thinner, before we came to dinner.
Me, oh, my! Me, oh, my!

Pumpkin pie song:

To the tune of Peanut Butter and Jelly:

Chorus: Pumpkin, pumpkin pie, yummy!

Pumpkin, pumpkin pie, yummy!

First you take the pumpking and you pick it,
you pick it, you pick it pick it pick it!

(chorus)

Then you take the pumpkin and you carve
it, you carve it, you carve it carve it carve it!

(chorus)

Next you take the spices and you mix it...

(chorus)

You put it in the oven and you wait, you
wait...

(Hum chorus while tapping food
impatiently)

You take it out the oven and you bite it, you
bite it, you bite it bite it bite and you chew
it, you chew it, you chew it chew it chew it.

(Sing chorus like your mouth is full)

Materials to Gather:**Dramatic Play:**

If budget allows, put Pilgrim and Native American costumes in the house play area. You could “plan ahead” and purchase these costumes for next year’s Halloween. Put a plastic turkey in the kitchen for pretend dinners, with toy table cloth, toy candle, etc.

Blocks:

Set out small animals, tractors, trucks. Set out small spools, rocks, or dried beans for the toy trucks to take to harvest.

Music:

Bach for Babies, A Classic Thanksgiving, or other suitable songs

Projects:**“I am thankful” for Turkeys:**

- Colored construction paper
- Glue, scissors, marker. . Help child cut out a large and a small circle

from brown construction paper. Then cut out six feathers from assorted colors of paper – red, yellow, orange, purple. On the large circle, write “I am thankful for” and the child’s name. On each feather, write something the child tells you he is thankful for (parents, siblings, grandparents, pets, new shoes, whatever). Help child glue the feathers to the big circle. Attach the small circle for the head above the big circle and between the feathers so it doesn’t hide any words. Add eyes, a yellow beak, a red gobbler, and it’s done. Stick on the fridge.

- Pumpkin pie filling, marshmallow crème, whipped cream.
- Paint, large sheet plain paper, cake pan, a marble
- Create a tracer of child’s name for him to practice writing skills. One website currently offering this service is: <http://www.kidzone.ws/tracers/none/index.asp>. Can print multiple copies, or just one and laminate it, then use a dry-erase marker on it.
- Large white paper (or paper placemats) paint, yarn scraps, fabric scraps, etc.
- Plain white index cards, Bugle snacks, candy Runtts. Glue.
- Colored pasta, yarn, patience. To color pasta, shake some in a zip plastic baggie. Add 3 – 4 drops of food coloring, and a tablespoon of rubbing alcohol. Seal bag and shake until all are covered. Dry on paper towel, and repeat for additional colors. Can dry in the sun. Don’t allow child to use until completely dry, as food coloring stains. Use a

- variety of pasta shapes for more interesting necklaces.
- Large bag or bucket of dry feed corn. Available in any Tractor Supply, Farm Supply, Feed mill. If all else fails, buy as much dried Indian corn as you can afford, and let child help you rub it off the cobs. This is very expensive way to buy it. Three ears of Indian corn was \$1.50 in my area, but a fifty pound sack of feed corn was only a few dollars. You'll want a large dish pan, or indoor sandplay table, or large bucket to hold the corn. Then add measuring cups, funnels, spoons, toy dishes, empty squirt bottles, etc.
 - Make a go-fishing game. Child can help you color fish. Then glue it to a sheet of sturdier paper or cardstock, sandwiching a metal washer inside, near the fish's mouth. Laminate or cover with contact paper. Make a fishing rod from a dowel rod or short stick, a length of yarn, and a magnet on the end. Child catch's fish with the magnet. For now, just catching fish is a skill to practice. Later, you can write alphabet letters on the fish,
- and have child catch specific fish to spell words. Or write numbers on fish, and child writes and solves math problems with them.
- Playdough – make fresh, color it orange and add pumpkin pie spice. Toy dishes, rolling pin, pie plate.
 - Catch the turkey game- one child is the Pilgrim, the rest are turkeys. They run around, until the Pilgrim catches one of them. Then he is the Pilgrim, and the game continues.
 - Natural items for "sink or float" like cranberries, pebbles, bark, leaves, sticks, feathers, etc.
 - Seed catalogs, old magazines, brown paper "cornucopia" shape, glue, scissors.
 - Pie tin, salt, glitter.
 - Paper plate, hole punch, yarn, markers, feathers, beads or macaroni beads
 - Red construction paper, an apple cut in half for printing, white paint, black paper scrap, scissors, glue, stapler.

Thanksgiving Week: Monday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity: Practice vocabulary words:. Teach “I am Thankful” song. This song has a lot of words, you might want to draw pictures, or make a flannel board for teaching.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Play lotto. Make Thanksgiving lotto game, using related stickers of pumpkins, or Pilgrims, or fall leaves.
8:15	Free Play: Set out props in dramatic play, blocks, music, books areas.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: Take child to the grocery store to but the Thanksgiving turkey, and other food items for the big day. Keep it short. Show him real cranberries, even if you buy them already canned. If your store has child-sized shopping carts, let him push one to get his exercise.
11:15	Project: I am Thankful For turkeys
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack: Pumpkin “pudding” Child helps you mix a tablespoon each of pumpkin pie filling, marshmallow crème, and whipped cream all together. Eat and enjoy.
3:30	Outside time: Run and play.
4:30	Come inside.
4:45	Project: Marble Painting: Put a sheet of plain paper in a large cakepan to contain the mess. Squirt three colors of paint on the paper (fall colors, orange, yellow, brown or red). Add a marble. Child tilts pan to roll marble through the paint again and again. Very pretty designs.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Thanksgiving week: Tuesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Vocabulary. Teach “Turkey Pokey”.
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Name Tracers. Make a tracer of your child’s name for him to practice writing.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack:
10:15	Outside time: bring toy tractors and farm animals into the sandbox. Use a comb to comb the sand to look like fields.
11:15	Project: Placemats. Write names of family members on large sheets of paper, or on purchased paper placemats. Child decorates them with paint, glue, paper scraps, yarn, etc. Use them at the table.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time: ride tricycle.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Name cards. Write name on folded plain index card. Glue a single “Bugle” snack to it, to resemble a cornucopia. Glue three or four candy “Runts” to it – banana, apple, plum, etc. Dry flat. Then set at the table.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Thanksgiving Week: Wednesday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Teach A Thanksgiving Son, review other songs
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: String Beads. String colored pasta on a length of yarn. Wear as a necklace in dramatic play.
8:15	Free Play
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time.
11:15	Project: Corn Play. Fill a dish pan, indoor sandplay table, or large bucket with dry feed corn. Let child play with it, pour it through funnels, scoop it, spill it, and pick it up. Great sensory experience. Can use for a month or more, until interest wanes. Then fill the sensory table with something else.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: If you have temperate weather, and you don't mind mowing down corn that sprouts, you could put the corn play table in the backyard. Otherwise, the spilled corn does vacuum up.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Go Fish.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Thanksgiving Day!

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Anything you can do to keep this day as close to his 'regular' schedule will make the day go more smoothly for both of you. Sing
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Playdough. Let child use toy dishes, rolling pin, etc, to make playdough pumpkin pies. If you have time, make fresh playdough, coloring it orange and adding a big shake of pumpkin pie spice.
8:15	Free Play (Or watch the parade together. What are your traditions?)
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time: If you have visiting relatives, with several children, they can play group games, like Follow the Leader, Catch the Turkey, leg races, jump inside a gunny sack, and mention that Pilgrim or Native American children might have played the same games.
11:15	Project: Sink, Float. Set out natural items (children might have gathered from outdoor play). Child sees which ones float or sink, and sorts them. Play in the kitchen sink, a dishpan at the table, or bathtub, depending on your situation.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack
3:30	Outside time: If you're having the big meal later, someone should take the children to a playground while the main cook prepares the meal. If your big meal was at noon, rearrange today's schedule to fit your needs.
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Cornucopia. Cut pictures of food from magazines, and glue to a paper cornucopia. Could use seed catalogs for pictures of fruits and vegies, or have child cut out pictures of food he likes – Hershey kisses, macaroni and cheese, etc.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner: Use child's placemats or name cards. Remember to do something to show thanks, whether your family prays, or simply lists the things they are thankful for.
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.

Thanksgiving Week: Friday

Date: _____

7:00	Wake up, go potty. Get dressed, Brush hair
7:30	Do Calendar activity. Teach remaining songs. Review older favorites. Sing often
7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Table Activities: Pie Tin practice. Shake a half cup of salt and a tablespoon of glitter into a pie tin. Child traces his fingers through the mix to write his name, alphabet letters, numbers, etc.
8:15	Free Play.
9:45	Child picks up toys. Go potty, wash up for snack
10:00	Snack
10:15	Outside time. Rake leaves. Jump in them.
11:15	Project: Dream Catchers. Cut out center of paper plate, decorate rim with markers. Punch holes along the rim, and lace a spider web of yarn through the paper plate. The bad dreams are "caught" in the web, but good dreams pass on through. Decorate with feathers, beads, and make a yarn loop to hang it on the wall above the bed.
12:00	Lunch. Go potty, read a story, sing & cuddle
1:00	Nap
3:00	Up from nap. Make bed, go potty, wash.
3:15	Snack:
3:30	Outside time:
4:30	Come inside. Go potty, wash up, and prepare for project.
4:45	Project: Count to Six apple book. Cut out 7 apple shapes from red paper. Make apple print with white paint on 6 of the apples. Cut bits of black paper for seeds, glue one to first page, two to second page, etc. Seventh apple is a cover. Staple all together when dry.
5:15	Clean up. Read a story, free play time
6:00	Dinner
6:30	Put away food, load dishwasher
7:00	Bath time. Get in Pajamas, read stories, or play a quiet game together
8:00	Bed.