

Circle Time Lessons

Unit overview

Day 6 Be Kind & Helpful

Brainstorm ways you can show kindness and be helpful to your family at Thanksgiving.

Be Kind & Helpful
Social Skills

There are many ways to show you are thankful for the people and things in your life. Being kind to those around you or helping with a chore are ways to show you are thankful.

Objectives:

- The students will interact and participate in circle time.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show photographs. Ask students to discuss other ways they can be kind or helpful (at home, at school, in public, etc.)
- Show the resource poster and talk about being kind and helpful.
- Sing the verse of the song together. The students move and act out each example of being kind and helpful.

Extension Idea: Students select an act of kindness, or write their own act of kindness on a paper strip. Loop the strips together to form a chain. Ask: How can we help in your classroom?

Day 7 Share & Care

At Thanksgiving, we share a meal with people we love. Recite poems and sing songs to recognize the benefits of sharing.

Share & Care
A way to show you care

Being kind and helpful lets people around you know you are thankful for them. Sharing is another way to show that you are thankful.

Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

- Show photographs. Discuss how sharing shows kindness.
- Read the chip-and-poem "One Little Friend." Continue adding one friend to the poem until you have five friends.
- Sing the S-H-A-R-E song in the tune of "Blingo".
 - Display the letters S-H-A-R-E and sing the song.
 - After singing the song for the first time, turn over the S-H-A-R-E.

Extension Idea: Students select an act of kindness, or write their own act of kindness on a paper strip. Loop the strips together to form a chain. Ask: How can we help in your classroom?

Day 8 Good Manners

Manners are a way of putting kindness into action. Review ways to be kind and practice using good manners.

Good Manners
Kindness in action

Sharing is an example of using your manners. Manners are a way of being kind. Having good manners is one way of showing thanks.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds and rhymes.
- The students will play well with others.

Activities:

- Show photographs and discuss with students: Why is each picture an example of using good manners?
 - Sing, "I am Polite" together as a class.
 - Repeat verses using manner cards attached.
- Practice being polite and using good manners by playing "Set the Table" game.

Extension Idea: Have students practice using their manners at a restaurant scenario they prefer. They complete the attached page to help with practicing setting the table, or it can be sent home to use with families.

Day 9 Turkeys

Turkey are a bird often associated with Thanksgiving. Recite a turkey poem while recognizing colors and shapes.

Turkeys
More than what's for dinner

Turkeys are one of the first things many people think of when they think of Thanksgiving. But turkeys are more than just what's for dinner!

Objectives:

- The students will sort objects by property.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Look at the pictures of the turkeys. Discuss similarities and differences between male and female turkeys.
 - A turkey is a kind of bird. All birds have feathers, and Animals

Extension Idea: Have students practice using their manners at a restaurant scenario they prefer. They complete the attached page to help with practicing setting the table, or it can be sent home to use with families.

Day 10 Conclusion

Review what you've learned and talk about what Thanksgiving means to you.

Conclusion
What have you learned?

To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about Thanksgiving.

Objectives:

- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will draw something and name what it is.

Activities:

- Sing "Thanksgiving Day."
- Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do on Thanksgiving?
- Create a chart or poster using the indicated headers and heart cut-outs. Students will draw or write what Thanksgiving means to them.

Extension Idea: Conduct a like or dislike center assessment using Thanksgiving foods such as an act of your class. Have students create a like or dislike or like or dislike poster. In a basket of water.

Thanksgiving

Activate Background Knowledge

Day 1
Lesson
Plans

Introduce the new unit (Thanksgiving) to the students. Thanksgiving is a time we can reflect on what we are thankful for, as well as celebrate traditions of the past. The first Thanksgiving celebration was hundreds of years ago.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- Students will compare objects by sorting.

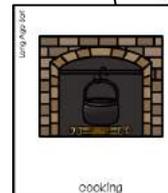
Activities:

1. Sing the song "Long Ago" together as a class.
2. Sort pictures into 2 different groups: Things that are from long ago and things that are from today.
3. Show photographs of early America. Discuss with students how they know this picture is from long ago.

Extension Idea:

Concepts of time (past, future) are difficult for young learners. Get them thinking about "Long Ago" by brainstorming things that happened a long time ago.

They might say, for example, that their birthday was long ago. Encourage them to think of things like "Our parents were babies long ago."



Visiting Family

Ways to Travel

Day 2
lesson
plans

When we want to visit someone who lives far away, there are many ways to get there. These are called “modes of transportation.” What are some different ways we might travel this Thanksgiving?

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Show photographs of different ways of traveling. Which would you use if you were going somewhere close or somewhere far away?
2. Sing one of the “Pokey” songs. Students move around like the different forms of transportation.
3. Play the Transportation Grid Game. (page 18)



Extension Idea:

Drive toy cars, trains, or airplanes through paint to make tracks. When finished, wash the vehicles in a sink full of soapy water.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/painting-with-cars/>



SCAN ME

Airplane Pokey
Song to the tune of "Hokey Pokey"

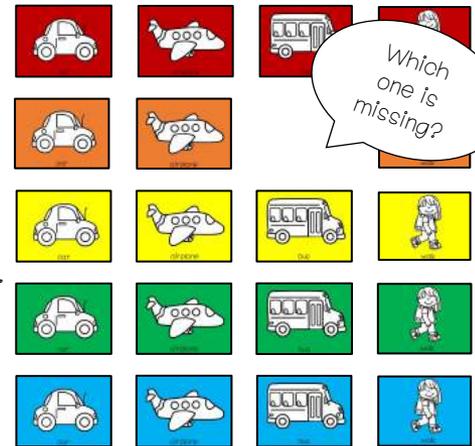
You put your wings In,
you put your wings out,
you put your wings In,
and you fly them all about.

You do the Airplane Pokey
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Fellow with different verses -
Luggage, ticket, passport

To Play the Game:

1. Copy page 18 onto 5 different colors of paper.
2. Create a grid where each column has the same picture and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
3. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
4. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.



Thanksgiving Foods

Holiday Favorites

Day 3
lesson
plans

Holidays are a special time when families and friends gather together. Often, people share a meal with their family and friends. Does your family eat any special foods during the holidays?

Objective:

- The students will interact and participate in circle time.
- The students will recognize and label their preferences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activity:

1. Show photographs of Thanksgiving meals. Ask students to discuss what holiday meals look like at their house.
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to “vote” for their answer on a bar graph. Which is your favorite Thanksgiving food?
3. Sing the song, “I Like Turkey.” Repeat using different food cards for each verse.



Which is your favorite Thanksgiving Food?

 I like turkey.	 I like mashed potatoes.	 I like pumpkin pie.	 I like corn.
Boone	Sawyer	Juliet	Desmond
Kate	Jack	Ben	
	Sayid	Hurley	

Extension Idea:

Teach the ASL sign for turkey. Extend index finger and thumb under chin. Wiggle hand back and forth like a turkey's wattle.



 turkey

 corn

 mashed potatoes

I Like Turkey!
(to the tune of the *Where is Thumbkin?*)

I like turkey.
I like turkey.
It's so good!
It's so good!

Do you love turkey?
What is your favorite?
Tell me now.
Tell me now.

* Different singing row verses using different words and including new foods in the children's table.



yams

Farm Harvest

Where does our food come from?

Day 4
lesson
plans

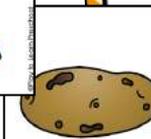
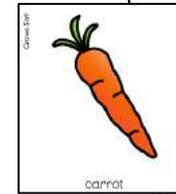
Many of the foods we eat at Thanksgiving are grown on farms. Farming is an important job.

Objectives:

- The students will sort objects by property. (size, shape, color, use)
- The students will play with words and identify numbers.

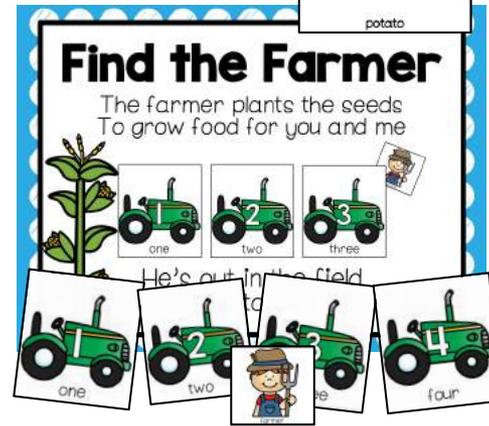
Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures of farms. What do students notice about what they see? What do they wonder?
2. Sort different pictures into 2 different groups: Things that grow on a farm and things that do not grow on a farm.
3. Play the "Find the Farmer" carpet game.



To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the tractors. (Numbers 1-16 are included. Pick the right number of cards for your students.) Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the farmer under one of the tractors and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the farmer is hiding by identifying the number.



Extension Idea: Create a Thanksgiving Sensory Bin using dried corn kernels, roasted pumpkin seeds, or sunflower seeds.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/fall-sensory-bins/>



SCAN ME

Give Thanks

We are thankful.

Day 5
lesson
plans

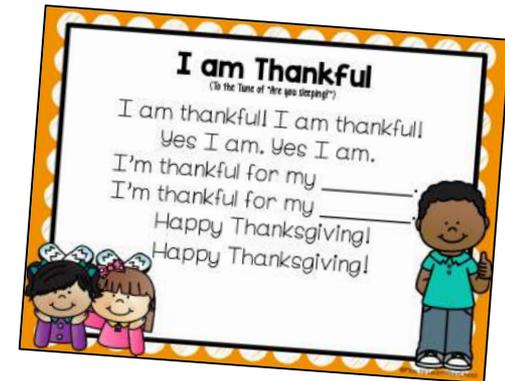
Thanksgiving isn't just about turkey, mashed potatoes, and pie. It's a time to give thanks for all the wonderful things in our lives.

Objectives:

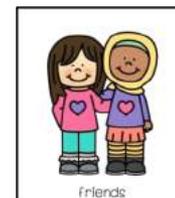
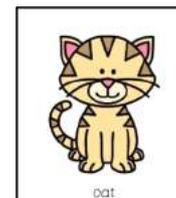
- The students will actively participate in conversations.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show photographs. Discuss with students why the person in the picture may be happy. Explain that the reason we celebrate Thanksgiving is because we have many reasons to be thankful. Encourage students to identify what they are thankful for.
2. Sing the "I am Thankful" song. Students can fill in the blank with their own ideas. Provide picture support for children who may need help.



Extension Idea: Teach the ASL sign for **thankful**. Place two hands near your chin, then extend down twice.



Be Kind & Helpful

Social Skills

Day 6
lesson
plans

There are many ways to show we are thankful for the people and things in our lives. Being kind to those around us and helping with a chore are ways to show we are thankful.

Objectives:

- The students will interact and participate in circle time.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

1. Show photographs. Ask students to discuss other ways they can be kind or helpful. (at home, at school, in public, etc.)
2. Show the resource poster and talk about being kind and helpful.
3. Sing the verses of the song together. The students move and act out each example of being kind and helpful.



Extension Idea: Students select an act of kindness, or write their own act of kindness on a paper strip. Loop the strips together to form a kindness chain that can be hung in your classroom.



Share & Care

We can show others that we're thankful!

Day 7
Lesson
Plans

Being kind and helpful lets people know we are thankful for them. Sharing is another way to show that we are thankful.

Objectives:

- The students will notice similarities and differences and ask questions.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Show the photographs and discuss how sharing shows kindness.
2. Read the chip-clip poem "One Little Friend." Continue adding one friend to the poem until you have five friends.
3. Sing the S-H-A-R-E song in the tune of "Bingo".
 - Display the letters S-H-A-R-E and sing the song.
 - After singing the song for the first time, turn over the letter S. Sing second verse as *clap*-H-A-R-E.



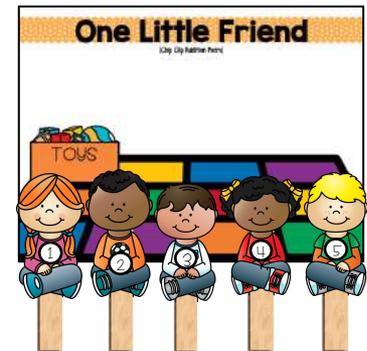
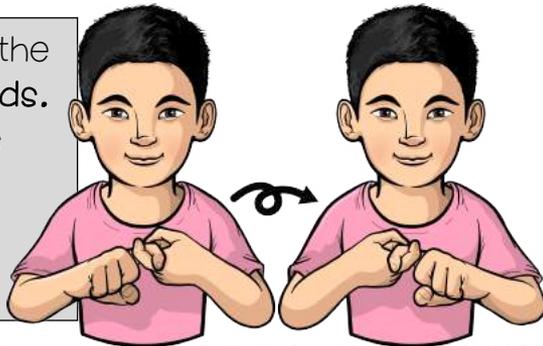
It's nice to share with a friend.



Sharing helps everyone have fun.



Extension Idea: Teach the ASL sign for friends. Bend index fingers and interlock together once on each side.



Good Manners

Kindness in Action

Day 8
lesson
plans

Sharing is an example of using our manners. Manners are a way of behaving. Having good manners is one way of showing thanks.

Objectives:

- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will play well with others.

Activities:

1. Show photographs and discuss with students. Why is each picture an example of using good manners?
2. Sing, "I am Polite" together as a class. Repeat verses using manner cards attached.
3. Practice being polite and using good manners by playing "Set the Table" bingo.

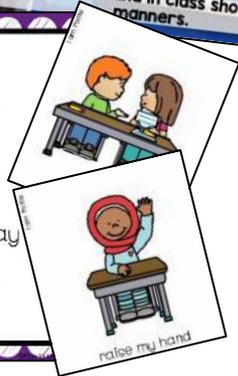


I am Polite

(To the Tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

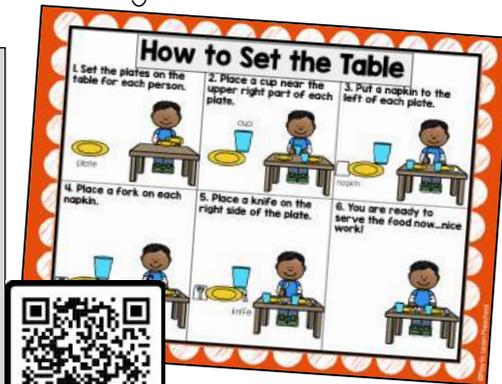
I'm polite and I know it
I say please
I'm polite and I know it
I say please.

I use my manners everyday
It's really the only way
I'm polite and I know it
I say please.



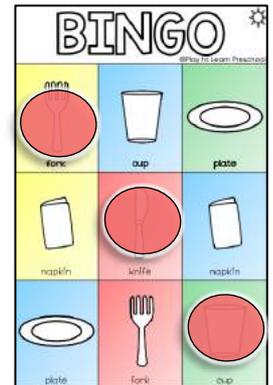
Extension Idea: Have students practice using their manners at a restaurant dramatic play center. They can use the attached page to help with properly setting the table, or it can be sent home to use with families.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/restaurant-dramatic-play/>



To Play the Game:

1. Cut out colored place setting materials and laminate. Place setting cards in a bag.
2. Students each receive 1 bingo card. Use counters or plastic chips as bingo markers.
3. Teacher pulls one setting card from the bag. Identify item and color and place in pocket chart at the front of the room.
4. Students mark item on their card if applicable. Three in a row wins.



Turkeys

More than What's for Dinner

Turkeys are one of the first things many people think of when they think of Thanksgiving. But turkeys are most than just what's for dinner!

Objectives:

- The students will sort objects by property.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.
- The students will identify shapes and colors.

Activities:

1. Look at the pictures of the turkeys. Discuss similarities and differences between male and female turkeys.
2. A turkey is a kind of bird. All birds have feathers. Sort pictures by Animals with Feathers and Animals without Feathers.
3. Play "Turkey in the Hay" carpet game.
4. Sing the song "Funny Bird," and act like turkeys.

Extension Idea:

Create a turkey hat craft. Cut brown paper lunch bags in half lengthwise. Open the bag and cut along the fold to create a headband. Cut out shapes or use attached template. Allow students to glue pieces together and attach to headband.



SCAN ME

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/turkey-hats/>

To Play the Game:

- Place the haystacks face up on the carpet or in a pocket chart.
- The teacher hides the turkey under one of the haystacks.
- Students recite the poem and take turns filling in the blank with a color and shape: "Let's look under the red circle!"
- Continue looking under the hay stacks until you find the hidden turkey!



Conclusion

What have you learned?

To conclude the unit, ask the students to describe what they have learned about Thanksgiving.

Objectives:

- The students will respond to comments and questions.
- The students will draw something and name what it is.

Activities:

1. Sing "Thanksgiving Day."
2. Take a poll. Students use name cards or post-it notes to "vote" for their answer on a bar graph. What is your favorite thing to do on Thanksgiving?
3. Create a chart or poster using the included headers and heart cut-outs. Students will draw or write what Thanksgiving means to them.

Which is your favorite thing to do on Thanksgiving?			
			
Elliot	Michael	Greg	Steve
Gertie		Tyler	
Mary			

What Thanksgiving means to me

Draw something that Thanksgiving means to you.

Extension Idea:

Conduct a sink or float science experiment using Thanksgiving foods such as an ear of corn and a potato. Have students predict if the item will sink or float, then test predictions in a bucket of water.

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/sink-or-float-experiment/>



SCAN ME

Thanksgiving Day
(to the tune of the London Bridge is Falling Down)

Thanksgiving Day is coming soon,
Coming soon, coming soon.
Thanksgiving Day is coming soon,
Now we give our thanks.

Thank you for our family,
Our family, our family.
Thank you for our family,
We are so thankful.

Support voice and spelling on this activity with:

- My Thanksgiving Friends
- My Special Thanksgiving
- My Autumn House
- My Thanksgiving!

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Centers

Center Activities

- Line Tracing
- Cutting Practice
- Syllable Sort
- Writing Practice
- Picture Puzzles
- Rhyming Pumpkins
- Beginning Sound Sort
- Count and Clip Cards
- Thanksgiving Patterns
- Shape Sort

Line Tracing

Fine Motor Center

Objective: The students will use tools for writing and drawing.

Procedure: Print and laminate these tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser!) Both full color and black-and-white, printer-friendly versions are included.

Cutting Practice

Fine Motor Center

Objective: The students will control the small muscles of their hands.

Procedure: Print the cutting pages in black & white. Make copies for each student. Students use scissors holding the page and using a straight line.

Thanksgiving Syllable Sort

Literacy Center

Objectives: The students will play with words.

Procedure: Copy the picture cards. Glue the cover on the front, and the sorting mat on the inside. Cut and laminate the Thanksgiving pieces. Students will clip the number of syllables in each picture. They will sort the pictures into 2 groups by their syllables.

Writing Practice

Literacy Center

Objectives: The students will write letters.

Procedure: Copy each page and place into a plastic sleeve (or print on cardstock and laminate). Students use a dry erase marker to trace the word.

Picture Puzzles

Fine Motor

Objectives: The students will coordinate hand-eye movement.

Procedure: Copy each page, mat, and laminate as desired. Students match the puzzle pieces together.

Pumpkin or Turkey

Literacy Center

Objectives: The students will notice words that begin with the same sound.

Procedure: Print the pages. Mat and laminate as desired. Students pick up a picture and say the word. They listen the beginning sound and then place it on the correct sorting mat: Does the picture begin with a P like Pumpkin or a T like Turkey?

Rhyming

Objectives: The students will identify rhyming words.

Procedure: Print, laminate and cut apart. Students choose a pair of pumpkins. They pair into the correct rhyming mat.

Thanksgiving Patterns

Math Center

Objective: The students will identify and extend simple patterns.

Procedure: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut apart. Students identify the pattern and extend it by placing the next correct piece.

Count and Clip

Objective: The students will practice one-to-one counting.

Procedure: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart. Students pick the correct answer with a clothespin.

Shape Sorting

Math Center

Objective: The students will sort objects by shape.

Procedure: Print, laminate and cut out all pieces. Students choose a haystack and identify the shape. They match it to a corresponding turkey.