

Sample of the Thanksgiving Activity Bundle




Gee WhizTM
Education

Getting Started

We hope that you and your children enjoy the experiences included in this sample of our full Thanksgiving Activity Bundle that is only available to active Gee Whiz subscribers. This sample contains just some of the materials included in the full bundle. **Any materials printed in red may require a little more time to gather or prepare.** In the back of this Teaching Guide you will find the following printable components:

- Thanksgiving Placemat
- Turkey Lotto Game

Active Gee Whiz customers also have these materials in the complete Thanksgiving bundle:

- “10 Little Turkeys” Finger Puppets
- Large Turkey Body
- “I’m Thankful For...” Make It! Sheet
- Thanksgiving Counting Game

To get access to these materials as well as the additional hands-on activities/lessons included in the full bundle, you will want to subscribe to the Gee Whiz curriculum. See discount code on last page!



At Gee Whiz, we use a series of picture symbols to help you identify the developmental areas addressed by each activity. Below you will find a chart that matches each picture to a developmental area. As you review the experiences presented in this guide, you will quickly see that each experience addresses many different developmental areas. For more information on these developmental areas, please check out our User’s Guide <https://geewhizeducation.com/geewhiz-curriculum-users-guide/>

Program Symbols for Developmental Areas

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 🗨️ = Language Development | 🌐 = Social Studies Knowledge |
| 📖 = Literacy Knowledge | ♥️ = Social & Emotional Development |
| ① = Math Knowledge | 🎵 & 🖋️ = Music & Creative Arts |
| 🔍 = Science Knowledge | 👏 = Physical Development & Health |
| ? = Logic & Reasoning | 😊 = Approaches to Learning |

Exploring Together Activities

These experiences are for your entire group...even your infants! Infants can watch and absorb all the fun!

Little Turkeys

(all ages, 🗣️ 😊 ✍️ 🎵 ❤️ 🖐️)

Materials:

None needed

- Action songs are great because they not only help children build language skills and vocabulary, they also get them moving. This action song invites the children to pretend to be turkeys as they sing and move. Be sure to join in the fun yourself!
- Make gobbling sounds as you move around the room and pretend to be a turkey. As children become curious, see if they can figure out what type of animal you are pretending to be. Then, Sing the song, "Little Turkeys" (below) and invite the children to participate in the movements with you.

LITTLE TURKEYS
(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Little turkeys, scurry 'round
(children scurry)
Pecking, pecking, on the ground.
(children pretend to peck)
Fan your feathers, so pretty.
(children wiggle bottoms)
Strutting 'round for all to see.
(children strut)
Little turkeys, scurry 'round
(children scurry)
Pecking, pecking, on the ground.
(children pretend to peck)

- **EXTENSION:** To help the children become more familiar with turkeys, watch a short video about wild turkeys like this one: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Hpl0oGcx3o>



Questions to Spur Thinking

- What do you know about turkeys?
- What would you like to learn about them?
- What would you do if you saw a turkey in your backyard or at the park?
- Where do you think turkeys live?
- Why do you think a turkey would not make a good pet?

Small Group Activities

The experiences on the next few pages are designed for small groups of children...toddlers through preschool. Many are child-directed and just require you to assume a supportive role.

Feather Fun

(all ages, 🗣️ 😊 🧠 ? ❤️ 🖐️)

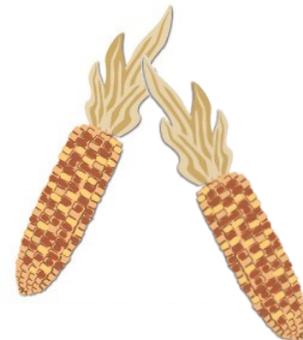
Materials:

Large craft feathers, playdough (any color), toy rolling pins (if available)

- Children use their senses to learn about their world. This experience invites them to explore while building fine motor control at the same time. In addition, the children will build both expressive and receptive language skills as they share their discoveries with you and each other.
- Set out the materials listed above and invite the children to explore. The children may choose to flatten the dough and then press the feathers into it. They may also just choose to stick the feathers into the dough. Keep the experience open-ended and invite the children to make their own decisions about how to use the materials. As the children explore, engage them in conversations by asking questions such as those to the right.
- Advanced Preschoolers: These children can make predictions about what they think they will see if they choose to press the feathers into the dough and then lift them up.

Questions to Spur Thinking

- *What types of animals have feathers?*
- *Turkeys have big feathers. What other birds might have big feathers?*
- *How did you choose to use the feathers?*
- *What do you think you will see when you lift up the feather?*



Questions to Spur Thinking

- *How does the paint feel? Smell?*
- *What do you think is going to happen when you roll the corn in the wet paint?*
- *Tell me about the design you see.*

Painting with Corn

(all ages, 🗣️ 😊 🖌️ 🧠 ? ❤️ 🖐️)

Materials:

Dried, decorative corn
 Red, yellow, orange, and brown fingerprint, fingerprint paper, white paper, sponge, water

- Using dried, decorative corn when fingerprinting encourages problem-solving and testing new ideas.
- Have each child choose two or three different colors of fingerprint to spread on dampened fingerprint paper. As the children fingerprint, see if they can identify the colors of the paint they chose as well as any new colors that appear when the colors mix. Next, provide dried, decorative corn for children to press or roll in the wet fingerprint. What happens?
- Advanced Preschoolers: These children can take the paint-coated corn and roll or press it on plain white paper in addition to following the directions above. How are the results the same? How are they different?

Infant Activity

Shake n' Rattle Sensory Bottle

(all ages, 🗨️ 😊 🔑 ? ❤️ 🖐️)

Materials:

☐ **Shake n' Rattle Sensory Bottle** - To make, put popcorn kernels in a dry, empty clear plastic drink bottle. Put glue in the lid and secure tightly to the bottle. Then, wrap the lid with masking tape...just to be sure.

- Infants are often fascinated with sensory bottles. This very simple learning tool is wonderful because it exposes young minds to the concept of cause and effect (e.g., I move the bottle and it makes noise). While this concept seems very simplistic to you and I, it is new knowledge to infants. Sensory bottles are also great because they help infants build fine motor control.
- Sit on the floor and hold the infant in your lap. Show the infant the sensory bottle. If the infant appears to want to hold the bottle, give it to him/her. Watch to see what the infant does and then describe his/her actions as well as what happens when the bottle moves. Be sure to use plenty of descriptive language! Remember...infants are like little sponges absorbing everything you say!



School-Age Activity

Doing for Others

(all ages, 🗨️ 😊 🌍 🍽️ 🖐️)

Materials:

☐ White paper, markers or pencils

- This experience invites school-age children to share their ideas about how they can help others who are less fortunate than they are. During the course of this experience, the children will have the opportunity to demonstrate the character education traits of responsibility, respect and kindness.
- Begin by talking with the children about basic needs. Can they verbalize what they think basic needs are? Then, share that some families do not have those basic things. Invite the children to brainstorm about what they could do to help. For instance, they may suggest collecting canned food to take to a food bank or gathering clothing to donate to a homeless shelter. Have the children write down their suggestions on paper. Then, once the list is complete, have them vote to choose the one they would like to do the most. Over the next week or so, help them organize how they plan to help and then follow through by delivering the materials where they need to go.

Questions to Spur Thinking

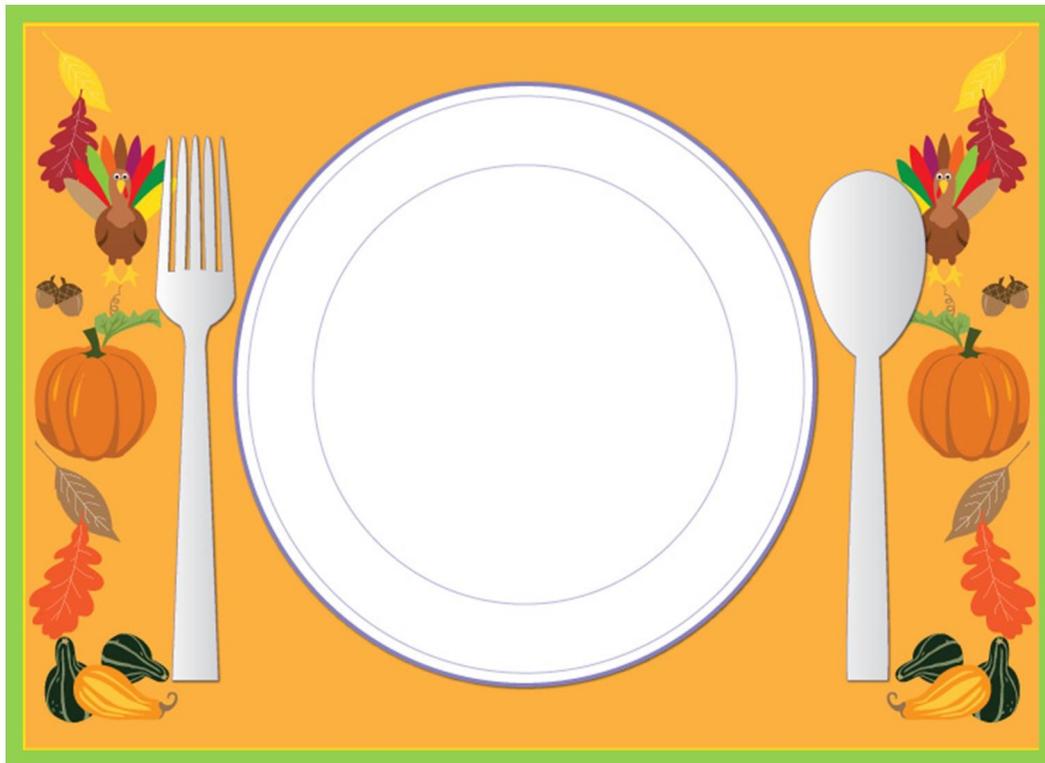
- *What are basic needs?*
- *What would you do if you did not have food to eat?*
- *How could we help those who are less fortunate?*
- *How can I help with your idea?*

Thanksgiving Placemat

The Thanksgiving Placemat is on page 12. To make these placemats last longer, you may want to cover them with clear Contact® paper.

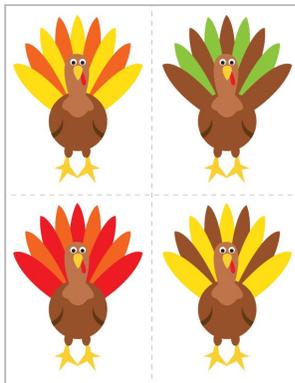
Ideas for Using this Material

- Prepare a few of these placemats to add to your Dramatic Play area. The children can use them as they role-play preparing Thanksgiving dinner.
- Send home a copy with each child to use during Thanksgiving dinner.
- Create an area where children can use the placemats to practice one-to-one correspondence. Include 2-3 placemats, 2-3 spoons, 2-3 forks and 2-3 paper/plastic plates. The children can place the plates, spoons and forks on top of those printed on the placemats. This will help them practice one-to-one correspondence.
- Mount 2 or 3 of the placemats to heavyweight paper. Cut each placemat into a puzzle. Vary the number of pieces for each placemat to help you address the differing developmental levels of the children in your group. The children can practice assembling the placemat puzzles.



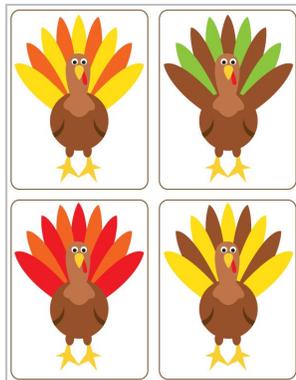
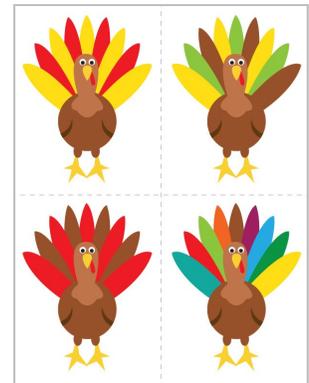
Turkey Lotto Game

The Turkey Lotto Game is found on pages 8-11.
There are several ways you can use this material.



Preparation

- Print the pages included on pages 8-11.
- Mount the pages to heavyweight paper and cut apart where indicated. You will end up with 2 playing cards (with 4 turkeys on each) and 8 individual cards. If you have a larger group, you may want to print out two copies of this material so you will have 4 playing cards and 16 individual cards.



Directions for Use

- To play the game, have the children turn the individual turkey cards face down on the table.
- Have each child choose a card, look at the turkey and then see if he/she has that particular one on his/her card. If not, the child should return the card to the table (face down). If the card is a match, the child should place the individual card on the picture of the turkey it matches on the playing card.

Other Ways to Use This Material

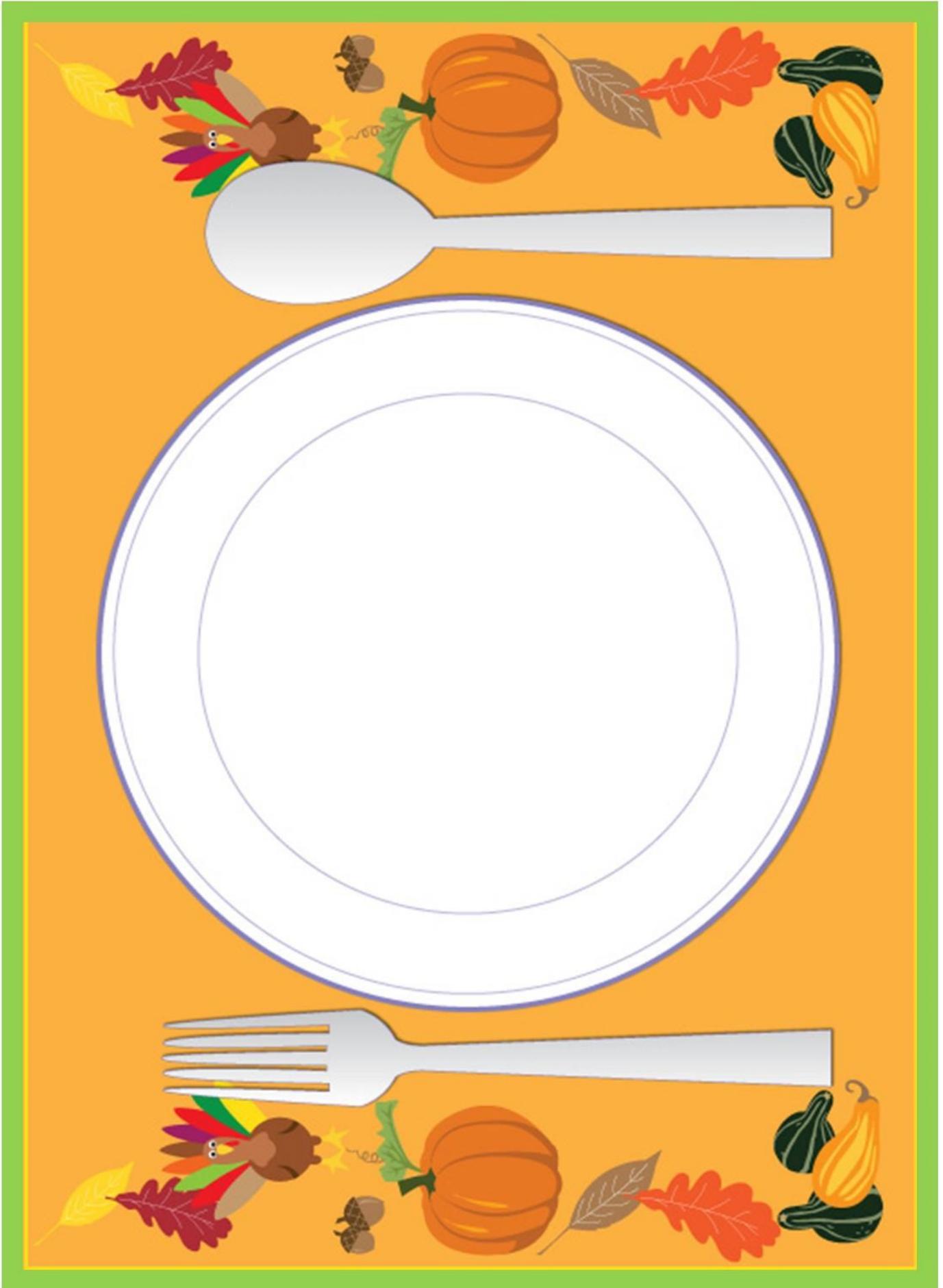
- Print out 2 copies of the individual cards and use them to play a memory game.
- Print out the individual turkey cards, cut them apart and hide them for the children to find.
- Use the turkeys to play, "I Spy" and review colors. For instance, you might say, "I spy a turkey with yellow and brown feathers." The children can then point to the turkey you describe.













Choosing a Curriculum Just Got Easier

The Gee Whiz Education Curriculum is designed **specifically for FCC programs** and:

- Includes activities for **ALL ages** in one curriculum
- Is **open-ended** and encourages children to learn through exploration
- Is **aligned** with state/national standards and **approved** in many states for QRIS programs
- Uses common **household materials** to save you money
- Provides access to **training webinars...at additional no charge!**
- **SAVE \$10 on your first monthly, quarterly or yearly payment with discount code TURKEY19. Gobble! Gobble!**



Monthly Price



Quarterly Price



Yearly Price



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