

Thanksgiving Activities

Infants (0–12 months): 3 activities

1) “Warm & Cozy” Sensory Basket

How to implement:

- Fill a basket with safe textures: soft scarf, fleece square, satin ribbon (short), textured ball, crinkle fabric.
- Offer one item at a time while naming sensations: “soft,” “smooth,” “cozy.”
- Keep it calm and short (2–5 minutes).

2) Baby Gratitude Photo Card

How to implement:

- Take a photo of the infant holding (or near) a paper heart that says: “I’m thankful for love.”
- Adult writes the message and shares it with families (optional).
- Display as a classroom “thankful wall.”

3) “Thankful Song Time”

How to implement:

- Sing a simple repeated song (same melody each time): “Thank you for friends, thank you for food, thank you for love...”
- Rock, sway, and use gentle motions (clap softly, wave).



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Toddlers (1–2 years)

1) Thankful Pumpkin

How to implement:

- Draw a big pumpkin on paper.
- Toddlers add stickers or pictures of things they like (food, pets, toys).
- Adults label: “You’re thankful for ____.”

2) Thanksgiving “Feast” Dramatic Play

How to implement:

- Set up pretend plates, cups, play food, napkins, and a small table.
- Practice social skills: “Please,” “thank you,” “my turn.”
- Keep it simple: 2–3 kids at a time.

3) Turkey Waddle Movement Game

How to implement:

- Play music and have toddlers “waddle like a turkey.”
- Add simple prompts: “Stop!” “Go!” “Freeze!”
- Great for energy + listening practice.

Preschool (3–5 years)

1) Gratitude Tree (Class Project)



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How to implement:

- Make a large paper tree trunk.
- Kids draw or dictate what they are thankful for on paper leaves.
- Add leaves to the tree all week and read a few each day.

2) “Foods We Eat” Sorting & Graphing

How to implement:

- Use picture cards of foods (bread, corn, apples, turkey, pumpkin, rice, beans).
- Kids sort by color/type and graph favorites.
- Talk about: “Different families eat different foods.”

3) Friendship Feast

How to implement:

- Kids help set tables (placemats, napkins).
- Share a simple snack approved by your program.
- Add a kindness moment: each child says one kind thing to a friend.

School-Age (6+ years)

1) “Gratitude in Action” Service Project

How to implement:



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- Choose a project: thank-you notes to staff, a classroom clean-up, or a canned food drive (if allowed).
- Kids plan the steps and assign roles.
- Reflect: “How does helping show gratitude?”

2) Recipe & Family Traditions Share

How to implement:

- Kids share a favorite food or tradition (sharing is optional).
- Make a class booklet: “Our Family Foods.”
- Focus on respect: “All traditions are welcome.”

3) Thanksgiving Myth vs. Respect Lesson

How to implement:

- Keep it gentle and factual: history is complicated; many Indigenous communities have different perspectives.
- Focus on values: respect, listening, and learning from multiple sources.
- Activity: kids write “What does respect look like today?” posters.

Inclusive Tip

“Some families celebrate Thanksgiving in different ways, and some do not. Our program focuses on **gratitude, kindness, and community**. Participation is always optional, and children may share only what feels comfortable.”



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