

## November ~ Giving Thanks for Family and Friends

**Age:** 18 to 24 months  
**Skills:** Fine motor, science, creative expression, social and language

**Materials:** Ingredients: 2 ½ cups of flour, one cup of cornmeal, one tablespoon of oil, one cup of water and a few drops of yellow food coloring. Mix in a large bowl adding dry ingredients first, then water and oil, along with food coloring. Mix and knead well.

### Cornmeal Play Dough

**Preparation:** Make play dough

**Activity:** Give your toddler some play dough to explore. Ask her questions about the texture and color. Show your child how to make a roll and squeeze the play dough.

**Parent Tip:** Toddlers love sensory activities that allow them to incorporate multiple senses in their play. Many parents are reluctant to allow toddlers to use play dough as a sensory material for fear that their toddler will eat the dough. Homemade play dough is non-toxic and a wonderful educational experience for your toddler.



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**Age:** 2-3 year-olds  
**Skills:** Fine motor, gross motor, creative expression, social and language

**Materials:** Plastic car, trucks, blocks, and little people

### To Grandmother's House We Go!

**Preparation:** Gather materials, you can use shoe boxes if you don't have blocks

**Activity:** Take your toddler on a dramatic play journey to visit family and friends with the use of props such as cars, trucks, airplanes, blocks, little people and your imagination. Build houses and drive to visit grandmother's and grandfather's home. Drive fast, drive slow, go up hills and down hills. Teach your child the joy of dramatic play!



## November ~ Giving Thanks for Family and Friends

**Age:** 3,4, & 5 Year-Olds  
**Skills:** Fine motor, pre-writing, creative expression, social and language

**Materials:** Construction paper, pencils, crayons, markers, glue, children's scissors, yarn, ribbon, and other embellishments you have

### Friendship Cards

**Preparation:** Set out the materials on a good working surface such as the kitchen table.



**Activity:** Talk with your child about family and friends, show them some pictures of their family members. Explain to your child that in November we celebrate a special holiday called Thanksgiving. Talk with your child about the people you are thankful for in your life. Next make cards together. Let your child draw, scribble, print, cut and create wonderful cards to give to family and friends. The cards can be used to decorate the table and sent to family member far away.

## November ~ Giving Thanks for Family and Friends

**Age:** 3, 4 and 5 year-olds  
**Skills:** Fine motor, gross motor, creative expression, social and language

**Materials:** Thanksgiving pictures from newspaper or magazines, scissors

### Holiday Wordplay

**Preparation:** Cut pictures out of magazines and newspapers that related to Thanksgiving

**Activity:** Hold up a Thanksgiving picture and say the name of the item and then a rhyming nonsense word, such as "Turkey. Bureky." Give the picture to your child and encourage him to repeat the process, saying the real word and a new nonsense word. Continue using the same picture with your child to see how many nonsense words you can come up with. Now let your child select another picture and start the activity again with a new picture such as "Pumpkin. Tumpkin."

**Parent Tip:** Making up words that rhyme helps children understand the concept that many spoken words sound the same. The ability to hear and identify words that rhyme is an important listening skill. Rhymes also help children understand that words are made up of a series of sounds that occur in a specific sequence.

