



Giving Thanks

Learning Ideas

First, read *Giving Thanks* aloud with the children at least once. As you read to the children, make comment on the style the illustrator used to create the pictures in the book.

On **second** reading, choose a few words to focus on during the reading. Choose words you think most of the children will not know. Choose words that occur across a variety of contexts and are used often. This will help expand expand the children's vocabulary to their best advantage.

The words you choose from *Giving Thanks* could be direction, harmony, precious or sprinkle.

Research shows that children are more likely to learn the meaning of unknown words when the adult reader emphasizes the word in a fun way, defines it and uses it in a sentence during the reading of the book.

For each of the words you've chosen place a sticky note like this on the page where the word is found.

harmony

In agreement

John and Judy played at the block centre in harmony. They were in agreement.

Talk about Being Thankful

You need:

Giving Thanks

Chart paper or white board

Appropriate markers

- Read *Giving Thanks* once or twice on different days.
- Choose a day after these readings to talk with the children at circle time about being thankful. What does being thankful mean? What are the children thankful for? What are you thankful for?
- On chart paper or a whiteboard, write the words large enough so the children can see each word.



Giving Thanks Day

Plan a day for the children to do something related to the things they are thankful for. Take part in the play in order to encourage more talk between all the children as they play.

Here are some ideas:

Cards for parents

Set up a card making table where the children can make thank you cards for the people or things they want to thank.

Food to give away as a thank you

Set up a cooking station to make a simple recipe that the children can give away to or share with the school principal, school secretary or another class.

Water table

Set up the water table with toy fish, animals and people for the children to play with.

Teacher thanks

Send an e-card to your class to say how thankful you are to be teaching them.

Reading Rockets E-card for *Giving Thanks*

http://www.readingrockets.org/content/e-cards/setup.php?photo_id=26

Giving Thanks Art

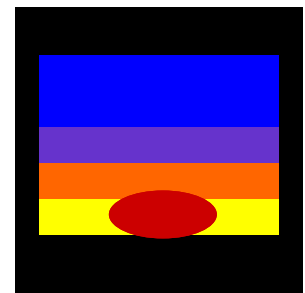
You'll need:

Construction paper, in a variety of bright colours, cut into shapes

Construction paper to paste onto

Paste pots and sticks

Scissors



- Talk about the illustrations in *Giving Thanks*.
- Cut brightly coloured construction paper into strips, circles, triangles and stars. If you have a die cutter with animal and fish shapes, cut these shapes out too.
- Provide pieces of construction paper for the children to paste onto.
- Have a copy of *Giving Thanks* available for the children to look at while they work.