



Helping Your Child Succeed In School

How many times have you asked your Kindergartner what happened at school today only to hear the quick response of “nothing” or “I don’t know”? As a parent you know lots of things are going on each day in your child’s classroom, but you may have to become a bit of a detective to find out what. The more you know about what is happening in the classroom, the better able you will be to help your child do their best. Listed below are several easy suggestions on how you can stay in touch and involved with what is going on in your child’s classroom and school.

- Get to know your child’s teacher! Visit regularly by short visits or brief notes. Let the teacher know that you are interested in what your child is doing and learning.
- Arrange to volunteer in the classroom. This allows you to experience your child’s learning environment and provides a much needed extra pair of hands for the teacher!
- Attend all parent-teacher conferences. Take with you a list of questions or concerns you want to talk about with the teacher.

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- Join the school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and become actively involved. This group can help you to stay informed about school activities, issues and concerns. It is also good way to meet other parents and teachers.
- Each afternoon or evening sit down with your child and go through their backpack (or papers brought home).
 - Go over each paper. Listen to your child’s reaction to his/her work. Be positive and give lots of praise and encouragement.
 - Be sure to read all notes and papers sent home by the teacher or the school and respond as needed.
 - Find out your child’s homework assignments. Encourage and assist as needed. Provide a quiet and well-lit place to study.
- Make up a family calendar. Mark dates of all school, family and work activities. Be sure to include dates of holidays and early dismissals. This will help you to remember ahead of time if you need to pack a special lunch, provide spending money or arrange child care.

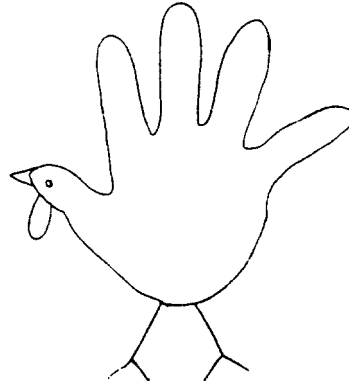
Having Fun Together!

Working on an art or craft activity with your child is a great way to help him /her develop creativity and work on fine motor skills. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to spend special one on one time together as the busy holiday season approaches. Have fun creating hand print turkeys together!

Hand Print Turkeys

Materials Needed:

plain paper or construction paper
crayons or water color markers



Directions

Have the child spread his or her hand on the paper spreading the fingers apart. Using a crayon or marker trace around the entire hand. (The traced fingers will be the feathers, the palm will be the body and the thumb the head of the turkey.) Let your child trace around your hand and you make a turkey also. Use the crayons or markers to draw the legs, beak, eyes, etc. and to color the feathers and body. Encourage your child to be creative in the use of colors.

Idea—Why not use your creations as decorations for the upcoming holidays. Put them on the refrigerator, tape them in the windows, or use them as place cards at the holiday meal?

Teach your child the following poem as you work on your project.

Five Little Turkeys

Five little turkeys are we.
We slept all night in a tree.
When cook came around,
We couldn't be found.
That's why we're here, you see.

Author: Kathy Jelley, Extension Agent—Family and Consumer Sciences, Brown County

Edited By: Elaine Collins, Extension Agent—Family and Consumer Sciences/Community Development, Adams County

Rose Fisher Merkwowitz, Extension Agent—Family and Consumer Sciences/Community Development, Highland County.

Carol Arkin, Extension Specialist, Family Life, Ohio State University

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Keith L. Smith, Director, Ohio State University Extension.

TDD # 1 (800) 589-8292 (Ohio only) or (614) 292-1868

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