

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds, 2007

**These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to work towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus; but not the only objectives being utilized in the lessons.**

#### **I. History (pg 32-34)**

- The child will identify ways in which people are alike and different
  1. Recognize ways in which people are alike and different
  2. Participate in activities and traditions associated with different cultural heritages
- The child will develop awareness of change over time
  1. Express differences between past and present using words such as before, after, now, and then
  2. Recount episodes from stories about the past

#### **II. Concepts about Harvest Time**

- Food that has grown needs to be picked or harvested to eat (Examples are: apples, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, potatoes, corn, etc.)
- Scarecrows are made to keep birds from eating up the food to be picked so we will have food to eat

#### **III. Concepts about Turkeys:**

- Turkeys are birds: has feathers, a beak clawed feet
- Turkeys have wings and can fly
- Some turkeys live in the woods
- A wild turkey lives in a nest
- Baby turkeys hatch from eggs
- Some turkeys are raised on a farm
- Turkey's say "gobble, gobble"
- Some folks like to eat turkey
- Turkey is traditionally served for "Thanksgiving" dinner

#### **IV Concepts about Thanksgiving Holiday**

- Thanksgiving is a holiday that is set for being grateful and saying "thanks"
- Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated by having dinner with family, extended family and friends
- Pilgrims and Indians, who worked together and were friends, celebrated the first Thanksgiving
- Native Americans (Indians) and Pilgrims alike: both dress and talk differently now than when they lived in the 1600's or a long, long, long, long time ago!

#### **V. Books to Read:**

1. *Turkey Facts* by Teresa Williams
2. *Thanksgiving Holiday* by Teresa Williams
3. *Five Little Turkeys* by William Boniface
4. *Little Indians* published by House of Collectibles
5. *The Story of the Thanksgiving* by Nancy Skarneas
6. *What is Thanksgiving?* by Harriet Ziefert
7. *The Pilgrims' First Thanksgiving* by Ann McGovern
8. *Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in The Life of A Pilgrim Girl* by Kate Waters
9. *Thanksgiving Is For Giving Thanks* by Margaret Sutherland
10. *Weekly Reader Big Issue "The Story of A Special Feast"*  
*November/December 2003*
11. *Five Wild Turkeys* by Teresa Williams (a finger play that I turned into a counting book)

#### **VI. Props to Use for Unit:**

1. I have real Indian Arrowheads and an Indian Hammer (head only) for children to examine
2. I have a model of real deer hide tepee approximately 2 feet in height
3. I use Indian corn, small decorative guards, and real pumpkins
4. Play food for harvest time used for food identification and sorting into Vegetables and fruits)
5. I have a Pilgrim Barbie and Indian Barbie dolls (in case only) to look at only: do not take out of boxes
6. Real turkey feather fan, and individual turkey tail feathers

## VII. Activities:

### 1. Turkey Activities

- **Hand Turkeys:** Hand trace and color turkeys
- **Painted Turkey:** Paint the palm of hand brown and different colors for feathers: press hand on paper
- **Family Turkey Feather:** Send home a paper turkey for each family to decorate. The feathers will fan out behind a large class turkey
- **Pine Cone Turkeys:** Decorate a pinecone with paper feathers and face
- **Turkey Placemat:** Use orange, red, or brown construction paper. Those are punched in place mat. Paint a handprint turkey in the center.  
Laminate. Decorate the outside edges with yarn that is threaded through holes.
- **Paper Turkey :** The children will exact match the paper feathers to the outline of the same color feather on color sheet.
- **Turkey Face Mask:** See pictures in activity section: it's a paper plate that the children painted and a paper beak was added.
- **Color Sheets:** There are many color sheets of turkeys available

### 2. Scarecrow Activities:

- **Stuff a Scarecrow:** Make a scarecrow in your room. Use newspaper, straw or what you have available to stuff some child size clothes. Add a paper bag or burlap bag (sew it yourself) face. Tie off clothes with rubber bands; add on gloves for hands and socks or feet if you don't have hay or straw coming out of hands. Add a hat to the scarecrow.
- **Stuff a Scarecrow Face:** Idea submitted to Preschool Mailbox by Michelle Hall in Biddeford, ME (see November ideas for our class sample . We used a paper bag, burlap for the hats, foam paper sheets for the tie, buttons for eyes and nose, and raffia for hair.
- **Scarecrow Color Book:** Kindergarten Mailbox Oct/Nov 1995  
I scanned in the pictures and made the book full page which makes it easier for the children with fine motor problems to color .
- **Puzzle:** I have a picture of a scarecrow and it is cut into 3 pieces. The children can color, cut and glue.

## VII. Activities continued:

### 3. Thanksgiving Activities (pick and choose what is appropriate for your level of children)

- **Dot to Dot Mayflower:** Preschool Mailbox Oct/Nov 2004
- **Color Sheets:** Free coloring pages to print online  
<http://www.coloringpages.net/thanksgiving.html>  
<http://holidays.kaboose.com/thanks-color.html>  
[http://www.firstschool.ws/theme/cp\\_h\\_thanksgiving.htm](http://www.firstschool.ws/theme/cp_h_thanksgiving.htm)
- **Make pilgrim hats and collars**
- **Make Indian "Native American" vests:** Children make designs on vest like Indian picture writing
- **Patterned Necklace:** String a pattern of colored Fruit Loop cereal. This can be done in a variety of ways. For example:  
2 reds, 2 yellow, 2 green and repeat the pattern, or red, yellow, and green then repeat the pattern. Count the Fruit Loop cereal on necklace, and later enjoy eating the necklace.
- **Make a handprint tablecloth:** Use a white sheet or small white tablecloth. Use paint on child's hand and take turn printing all around the cloth for a border. We also put hand prints in the center of cloth. Our handprints were made to look like turkeys
- **Have a Thanksgiving or "Friends" Feast:** Children can cook in room, or parents can bring in food items. Invite another class to share the feast.
- **Table Favors:** Preschool Mailbox Oct/Nov 2007  
See example in November Activities: Fill a small paper bag with candy or goodies, tie off with raffia and fringe the top of bag. Decorate the bottom of bag by drawing pictures or use seasonal craft foam cutouts or stickers.
- **Clay Pots:** Use clay or homemade recipe to make a clay pot. Imprint it with gadgets. Let dry or bake in oven. Paint  
<http://babyparenting.about.com/cs/activities/a/playdough.htm>
- **Pack a Suitcase:** Pack a suitcase of what one may take on an overnight trip (the Pilgrims packed a suitcase when they traveled on a big ship to America). Make a paper suitcase and cut out pictures from magazines of what children would take on their trip.

## VII. Activities continued:

### 3. Thanksgiving Activities (pick and choose what is appropriate for your level of children)

- **Drums:** Use empty oatmeal boxes to make drums. Cover boxes with construction paper and draw designs on it.
- **Being Thankful:** Take dictations of what each child is thankful for. My parents or non-verbal parents write for me what their child is thankful for. We also use pictures of family members. The child can illustrate dictation if able to draw.
- **Plate of Food:** Take a paper plate and have children cut out food pictures (or have pictures of food already cut and ready) for child to glue on plate.
- **Identify Play Food:** Identify and sort play food. You can sort according to color, like or dislike to eat, or according to fruit, vegetable, or meats.
- **Set the table:** On a long sheet of construction paper glue a real paper plate, napkin, paper cup, and plastic flatware. I have also had the children glue on paper outlines of where one should place a plate, cup, napkin and flatware, so child will learn where to place the actual items.
- **Indian Corn 1:** Use paper outlines and fill with crumpled up red, yellow and brown tissue paper. Attach corn to paper husks
- **Indian corn 2:** Use paper outlines and children use fingertip to paint red, yellow and brown prints until paper corn pattern is full. Add dried cornhusks or you can buy dried cornhusks in the Mexican section of the grocery store.
- **Indian Pouch:** Two pieces of square paper that has been cut from grocery bags. Wet squares with water, crumple up, and dry, then hole punch around the pouch. Lace the pouch together with yarn. Tie the ends. Add a yarn or paper handle  
decorate pouch with stickers or draw pictures.

## VIII. Recipes and cooking ideas

1. **Popcorn:** pop popcorn
2. **Bread or hot rolls:** Make your favorite homemade bread or hot rolls
3. **Cornbread:** Make cornbread
4. **Butter:** Use a baby food jar, add 2 clean marbles, add in heavy whipping cream and shake until butter separates from the whey.

5. **Quick Apple Butter** (Recipe included)

6. **Indian Pudding:** (Recipe included)

7. **Helpful Squanto Snack:** *Preschool Mailbox Oct/Nov 1998*

Plastic cups, Ziploc Baggies, Oreo cookies rolling pin, 2 gummy fish and 3-candy corn. Put cookies in baggie, crush with rolling pin, and add the gummy fish to candy corn.

8. **Turkey Gobble Cookies:** *Preschool Mailbox Oct/Nov 2006*

1 fudge strip cookie for body, 1 nutty buddy cookie for head 2 mini chocolate chips eyes, 1 candy corn beak, use red writing gel for waddle. Assemble cookie and enjoy.

9. **Turkey Cookies:** Use a favorite sugar cookie recipe and cut out turkey shaped cookies and decorate with icing, candy corn, and red writing gel for the waddle

### **Quick Apple Butter**

- 5 cups applesauce
- 6 cups sugar
- 1 box of strawberry Jell-O
- Combine all ingredients in a heavy iron pot
- Cook for 10 minutes, stirring constantly
- Add ground cinnamon to taste
- 1 qt milk (4 cups milk)
- 1/3 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup molasses
- 3 TBS butter
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ginger
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup raisins
- Need a large pot, a spoon, a small bowl and a casserole or baking dish
- Turn the oven to 350 degrees
- Measure all ingredients ahead of time.
- Heat the milk until its steamy hot.
- Watch the pot so the milk does not boil and spill over the sides.
- Gradually stir in cornmeal.
- Keep stirring so it will not be lumpy.
- Add molasses, butter, salt, ginger, and cinnamon.

- Stir until thick. This will take about 15 minutes
- Break the eggs to the mixture a little at a time
- Add the raisins.
- Keep stirring as you do this
- Grease the casserole with butter.
- Pour the mixture into it.
- Bake it in the oven for approximately one hour and 15 minutes.
- **Do not stir the pudding**
- When you remove the pudding from oven it will be bubbling. Let it cool at least 20 minutes before eating.
- Pudding can be served either hot or cold. Vanilla ice cream can be added to pudding.