Thanksgiving Garland

Looking for the meaning of Thanksgiving? This year, ask your guests to take a moment to reflect before dinner. They can each write a special note and when you’ve collected all of them, your child can transform them into a garland of thankfulness, using only a few craft supplies. This colorful garland can be strung across a fireplace and remind you of your blessings well into the new year.

What you Need:

- Brown paper bags or construction paper
- Orange construction paper
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String
- Pen

What You Do:

1. Have your child draw and cut out several circles from the brown bags and orange paper. Now punch a hold in each circle, and write a prompt on each circle, such as, “I’m grateful for...” or “I’m happy that...”
2. Place the circles in a bowl and encourage any guests you may have throughout the holiday season to write their own reflections on them. When you’ve collected enough for a garland, help your child thread the circles onto a length of string.

You can also make the garland ahead of time, and ask guests to write their notes straight onto the hanging decoration.
After coloring the turkeys and the stands, have a grown-up help cut and assemble the centerpiece. Tape the pieces back to back before cutting the slits. Then slot the stands onto the turkey.

Works best when printed on heavier paper or card stock!
Thanksgiving Table Decorations Centerpiece

Cut slits after taping finished pieces back to back.
Autumn Crossword Puzzle

DOWN
1. Carved pumpkin
2. Holiday for giving thanks
3. Leaves on trees
4. In astronomy, the first day of autumn is called the autumnal ___________
5. Used to gather leaves
6. Month preceding November
7. Horn of plenty
8. Holiday on October 31
9. Traditional Thanksgiving bird
10. To gather; to reap
11. Grows on tall stalks
12. Month preceding December
13. They change color in fall
14. Latin American holiday on November 1st
15. Fruit of the oak tree

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Time to Fly
An Action Rhyme

Soar like a plane up in the sky.

Blast like a rocket going way up high.

Spin your copter blades ‘round and ‘round.

Then touch down safely on the ground.
Stop, Watch, and Go!
An Action Rhyme

Traffic light—
At the top,
Red light roars,
“Stop! Stop! Stop!”

In the middle,
Hear a shout.
Yellow bellows,
“Better watch out!”

At the bottom,
Way down low,

Green light cheers,
“Go! Go! Go!”
I See . . .

Sing this song to the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”

I see red cars.
I see red cars.
On the street.
On the street.
Do you see the red cars?
Yes, I see the red cars.
On the street.
On the street.
The tiny train is sleek and black.
It goes *chug, chug, chug* and *clickety-clack*.
It circles round and circles back.
*Toot, toot, toot* on the trickety track.
Find It

Find the rowboat, sailboat, and tugboat. Then count the total number of boats. Use lots of descriptive words as you talk with your child about this scene.
Up, Up, and Away!

Count the 11 balloons. Then draw a design on the biggest balloon.
Wheels on the Bus

Take a ride with your friends and family using this frame. Fill it with pictures, then give it to someone!

You Need

- Scissors
- Cardboard tube
- Yellow construction paper
- Glue
- 3-4 small photos
- Markers or crayons

Adult: Cut two 2-inch sections from a cardboard tube. Cut a slit in the middle of each.

1. Fold a sheet of yellow construction paper in half, and cut a small square from one end.

2. Use glue to attach your photos. Decorate your bus with markers or crayons.

3. Place the bus into the slits in the cardboard tubes.

Can you think of something buses do that cars don’t?
Make a Travel Picture Suitcase!

Kids love to brag about the places they've been; whether it be to Grandma's house or to Disneyland. Keeping track of all the places they've journeyed to can be equally as fun! With this craft, kids can pretend they're off on an exotic journey with their very own passport suitcase. With a small box and twine, let them create a mini-suitcase, complete with pictures of all their fabulous destinations. Here's how:

What You Need:
- Small cardboard box, such as a cereal box
- Twine
- Scissors
- Travel magazines
- Glue stick
- Markers

What You Do:
1. Find a small box that is thin and long; a cereal box is perfect.
2. If the box has writing on it, cut out construction paper or a paper bag and glue it over the box so it looks clean and mark-free. Inside-out wrapping paper or butcher paper would work well for this, too.
3. After the box is covered, poke two holes on the long end of the box about 5 inches apart. Mom or Dad may need to help with this! Take a piece of twine and thread it through the hole and push it through until you can pull it out the other hole. Then tie the two ends together. Turn the loop so the knot is no longer visible, but hidden inside the box. Now you have your handle.
4. Go through the magazines in your house and look for pictures of places you've been. If you haven't been to many places yet, simply cut out pictures of places you'd like to go! Even better, if you have pictures from some of your travels, bring them out, too.
5. Then, glue the cut outs and pictures all over your suitcase. If they can't find some places in a magazine, encourage the kids to use markers to draw them. Use this opportunity to talk about the various places in the world and even find them on a map! Your little ones may not believe how far they've traveled or how many places they would like to go!
The Fall Reading Challenge features book lists, online events, and giveaways.

Adults, Tweens + Teens, and Kids who register and participate will be eligible to win free books and eGift cards.

Register at HCPLC.org/FallReading.

Readers of all ages can claim digital badges by logging their reading regularly and completing special activities.

Funded by the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County, Inc.
Together We Read
An Evening with Tim O’Brien
Sponsored by the Friends of the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library.

December 4
6 p.m.

Join the live, online evening with award-winning author Tim O’Brien of *The Things They Carried* will discuss his experiences in the Vietnam War. Talk to be followed by Q&A.

HCPLC.org/NEABigRead