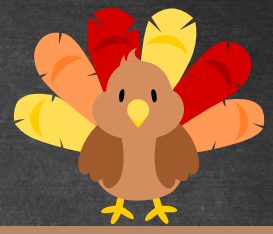


Pre-K Press

November 2024



World Kindness Day (November 13th)

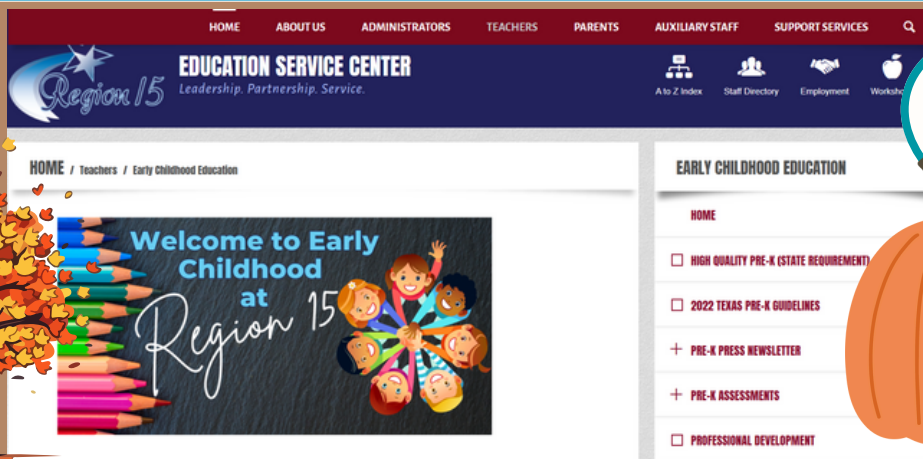
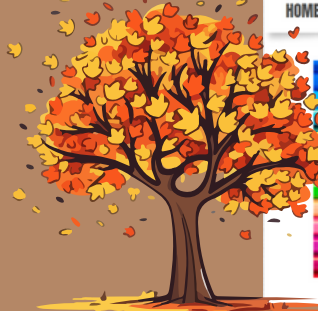
"In a world where you can be anything, be kind." ~Clare Pooley

This is one of my all-time favorite quotes! It's one I often write on the white board outside my office when I don't have anything profound to share. But wait... kindness **IS** profound! It's something we need to continue to teach our students so that it becomes their norm.

How about celebrating kindness in your classroom with class-sized Kindness Bingo? Create a giant Bingo Board on chart paper, but... leave it blank! Tell students that as you see kindness happen in the classroom, you are going to write it on the Bingo Board. **Most importantly, follow through.** As you see a student help clean up, push in a chair that isn't

theirs, etc., call out the action and fill in a square on the Bingo Board! Once the board is full, celebrate your kindness in a fun way! (Perhaps brainstorm some celebration ideas beforehand, add them to a spinner, and spin the wheel to "choose" the celebration.) What do you do when you're done? **Do it AGAIN... and AGAIN!** World Kindness Day may be celebrated on November 13th, but it can be **Classroom Kindness Day EVERY DAY!** And - be careful - if you follow through and are diligent with this process, you just may end up with a classroom full of kind, empathetic little people who make your classroom the **BEST** place to be!

FALL
VIBES



Everyday Resources for Early Childhood!

I know there are **many** new Pre-K teachers in Region 15, so I wanted to make sure everyone is aware of the everyday resources available on our website. Click on **Teachers** -> **Early Childhood**, and you'll land on the page you see above. You'll find access to Texas Pre-K Guidelines, High Quality Pre-K State Requirements, an archive of **all** Pre-K Press Newsletters, assessment information (including the Pre-K Interim Progress Report), upcoming PD sessions, ATYC info (as the conference gets closer), Texas School Ready information, an up-and-coming ECSE page (stay tuned), and resources where you can find activities and articles of interest.

Also, if you have not joined our **Pre-K Listserv**, please be sure to do that! *I promise I do **NOT** spam your email! (Believe me - an inbox full of spam drives me just as crazy as you!)* You will, however, receive the monthly Pre-K Press Newsletter, and **if** there are **important** updates or information from TEA that you need, I will send that to you. However, I usually just include all of that pertinent information in the Pre-K Press! 😊 So join now - you don't want to miss the activities, fabulous read alouds, and all of the early childhood information shared each month!

Science/Fine Motor

"Cook up" some easy and festive **2-ingredient pumpkin play dough** with your students! The recipe is 1 (15oz) can of pumpkin puree to ~2 cups of corn starch. In small group, assist students in mixing the 2 ingredients. Add 1/2 cup cornstarch at a time, mix well, and check for stickiness or play dough consistency. (If you add too much cornstarch, just add a few drops of water until it's no longer dry.) Provide rolling pins, cookie cutters, mini pie tins, etc. Carry on conversations about how these ingredients change when mixed together, how it feels, what it smells like, etc. You can "**spice it up**" with a little pumpkin pie spice, as well!

***Ask parents to send a can of pumpkin, cornstarch, or ziplock bags to help with this activity.**

The play dough should last up to 5 days if stored in baggies in the fridge.



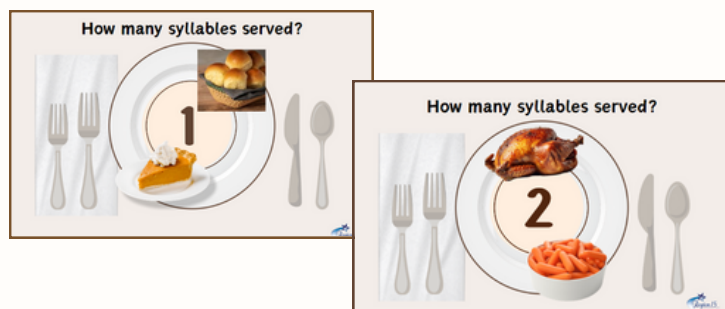
Letter Knowledge

Create letters from nature! Begin stirring up interest by putting items together while outside on the playground. When your entourage inquires what you are doing, show them how you're making letters with leaves, twigs, rocks, etc. Soon, you'll have interested attendees making their own! Encourage students to gather natural materials before going inside, or take a walk where everyone has a baggie to collect items. Add them to the ABC center or in your Discovery Bin to create more letters from nature. Take photos of the letters and create a class book – **Nature's ABCs!**



Phonological Awareness

Serving Up Syllables! As you prepare for the upcoming holidays, have children practice vocabulary and oral language as they talk about the tasty foods served. Once you've named/labeled the food items on the cards, have children practice syllabication by saying the name of the food, clapping the name of the food, and "serving" the food onto the corresponding plate. There are 2 ways to play this yummy game in small groups! **Click a place setting to download the file.**



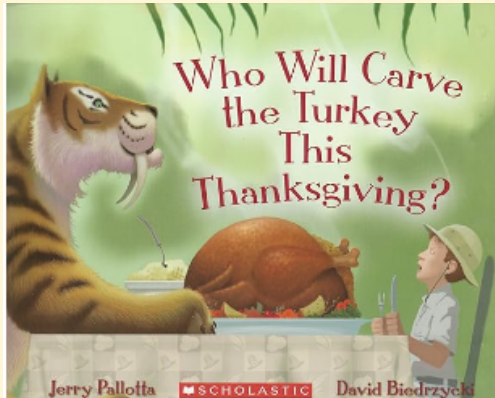
Literacy & Writing

After reading **The Thankful Book** (see below in the Book Nook), by Todd Parr, encourage children to draw and write about things in their lives they are thankful for. This can be done in daily journals where they draw the picture, and you take dictation as they tell you about it. You can create a **Thankful For...** chart where you follow the cadence of the story by writing, "**I'm thankful for _____ because ...**" Encourage children to fill in the 1st blank as much as possible (even if it is simply the first letter and "scribbles"). You can then complete the rest of the sentence by writing why they are thankful. ***Just add one or two sentences per Whole Group for time's sake and to keep children interested in what else will be added to their chart of thankfulness!**

Throw away the worksheets! THIS is writing in Pre-K!!



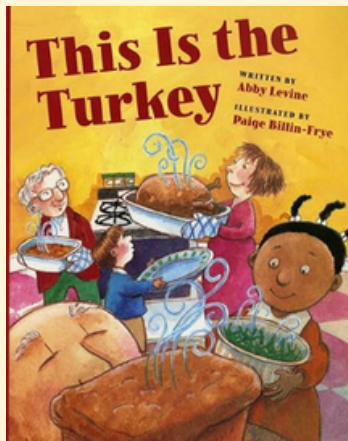
PRE-K BOOK NOOK



Who Will Carve the Turkey This Thanksgiving?

It is Thanksgiving Day and the turkey needs to be carved. Who will do the job? A killer whale, or a saber-toothed tiger, or a Tyrannosaurus rex? None of those seem quite right. So who will carve the turkey this Thanksgiving? Ask students why the child thinks each one is a good idea - at first. How could they possibly be helpful in carving a turkey?

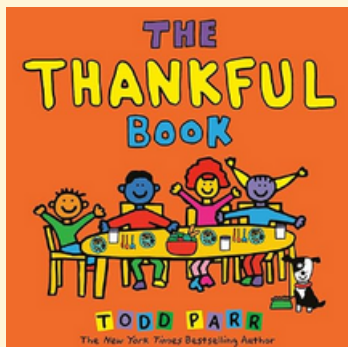
***Vocab opportunities: carve, extinct, sneaky**



This is the Turkey

Max is excited about the big turkey he has picked out for his family's Thanksgiving dinner. He and his sister help prepare the fixings, and soon his friends and relatives bring their own dishes and merriment. With the rhyming and repetitive piece (think "This is the House that Jack Built"), students will love this read aloud and want to read along with you!

***Vocab opportunities: guests, sniffing, admires**



The Thankful Book

The Thankful Book celebrates all the little things children can give thanks for. From everyday activities like reading and bathtime to big family meals together and special alone time between parent and child, Todd inspires readers to remember all of life's special moments. The perfect book to treasure and share, around the holidays and throughout the year. What a wonderful way to help children find all of the every-day things they can be thankful for!

***Vocab opportunities: unique, special, adventures**

Let's
Read



NEVER
STOP
READING

ESC 15 ECE TEAM



Carey Peacock

Early Childhood Specialist
carey.peacock@esc15.net
325-481-4046



AJ Braden

Texas School Ready Coordinator
(Child Care and Head Start)
amanda.braden@esc15.net
325-481-4080



Questions about ECSE?
Contact Destiney Martinez:
Destiney.Martinez@esc15.net
325-481-3006



CIRCLE Progress Monitoring Reports - Quick PD

Keep your peepers open for a **“Quick PD”** via Zoom to help you run and create all of the reports you need after completing CIRCLE Progress Monitoring assessments! This quick session will help you create small groups, parent reports, and check growth in benchmarks and overall scores for your class! **Details coming soon!**



hello
FALL