

Holiday Helps

Ideas for Early Childhood Classrooms

Autumn is associated with colorful trees and a time for giving thanks. Combine these thoughts and create fun Thumbprint Trees to decorate classrooms and tables at home.

Thumbprint Trees

What You'll Need

- colored markers
- white card stock (or construction paper)
- brown construction paper
- glue or glue sticks
- scissors
- empty toilet paper tubes
- washable ink pads or finger paints in autumn colors (red, yellow, orange)
- wet wipes
- bird and animal stickers (optional)

What to Do

1. Cut a piece of brown construction paper $4\frac{1}{4}" \times 6\frac{3}{4}"$. Glue the paper around an empty toilet paper tube. Cut two $\frac{1}{2}"$ slits opposite each other at one end of the paper tube.
2. From a piece of white card stock, cut the shape of a treetop (see illustration). Using washable ink or finger paints, create colorful thumbprint "leaves."
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3. Print on the treetop the names of people or things for which you are thankful. Then slip the treetop into the slits on the paper tube "trunk." If desired, decorate the tree with stickers. Set the finished trees around your classroom or encourage kids to display them at home. The trees can serve as reminders to thank God for everything He has given us.

Another Idea!

Don't forget Grandparents Day (celebrated in the United States and Canada on the first Sunday after Labor Day)! Draw outlines of tree trunks and treetops on the fronts of blank note cards. Then let kids color the tree trunks and add colorful thumbprint leaves on the treetops. Kids can print fun messages inside their cards, such as "Happy Grandparents Day! I'm glad to be part of your family tree."



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