

Turkey Feather Fine Motor Fun

When you stop to think about it, children are learning in so many ways, with whatever activity they are doing. Sometimes your reason to do something is for the fun of it. Period. But there is always learning going on.

Materials List:

- ✓ A small **cardboard box** of any size, this example is 7" X 7" X 7"
- ✓ **Feathers** – make sure the stem is sturdy. These are about 10 inches tall – often available at the dollar store
- ✓ **Scissors**
- ✓ **Glue or tape**
- ✓ 6 inch **brown paper** or paper to color brown to make the turkey's face
- ✓ Small scrap of **yellow paper** (Have your child find *Yellow* in a magazine or sales flier)
- ✓ Optional: **Brown paper** to wrap the box if there is writing on it (Use a grocery bag!)
- ✓ Optional: **Markers, paint, crayons**



Steps

1. Try to make the box show as little writing as possible. A parent can cut a grocery bag and help the child cover it using tape and glue. Another idea is to color the box with brown paint or crayons or markers.
 - If the box might topple over, before covering, put a rock or other object inside to weigh it down.
2. Determine which is the front of the box, which is the top. Use a circle as a template – a plate or food container, about 5 inches wide, guide child to trace around it. The parent cuts it out.
3. Child draws two eyes on the face.
4. Help child draw a triangle shape for the beak; parent cuts it out.
5. Child uses glue to place the beak on the face.
6. Child glues the turkey's face to the front of the box.
7. Parent makes holes in the top of the box, carefully piercing the cardboard. A piercing tool or a kitchen gadget, like a food thermometer, could work. Or use scissors. Be safe! Pierce a hole for each feather.
8. Ta-da!!! Ready to decorate the turkey with feathers! Color more on the turkey if desired.

Besides having fun, what else is happening with this activity?

1. Relationship building- family members working/playing together
2. Refining small motor skills and improving hand-eye coordination when putting feathers into the holes
3. Language modeling – Narrate what you're doing. Have colorful feathers? Practice color names.
4. Building foundational skills – take turns and narrate "my turn, your turn" to model waiting and sharing
5. Learning about animals – show pictures of natural turkeys, show eyes, beak- talk about what the beak is

If placing the feathers in the holes is too difficult, start with the feathers in the box and have your child take them out of the holes and place them in a container. Then model how you can put them back in.