More Ideas for Turkey Time program:

**Turkey Time**
In the book *Little Tom Turkey* by Frances Bloxam, children discover what the real lives of wild turkeys are like. They will learn about hens, toms, poultts, caruncles, wattles, and snoods. Children will even perform the turkey strut and learn the turkey call! Each child makes a terrific turkey to take home.

**Turkey Calling Activity:** Listen to a hunter’s wild turkey call. Invite the children to imitate the call, complete with lots of squawking, flapping, wattle shaking, and pecking. Give each child a prize with fun distinction: loudest turkey, most authentic, most likely to be spared, cutest turkey, etc. Make turkey calls from film canisters and cocktail straws. Punch a hole in an open canister, insert straw: make a kissing motion with your lips to produce a song on the straw. *(Idea from Idaho’s Fish & Game’s Wild about Early Learners)*

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<th>The Turkey fingerplay</th>
<th>I’m a Turkey to the tune of “Yankee Doodle”</th>
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| *The turkey is a funny bird.*  
*Hook thumbs together and spread fingers to create turkey tail.* | *I’m a turkey, big and fat.*  
*Spread arms out.* |
| *Its head goes wobble, wobble.*  
*Wobble head back and forth.* | *I spread my tail. I walk like that.*  
*Fan fingers like a turkey’s tail; Waddle.* |
| *And all it knows is just one word:*  
*Hold up one finger.* | *Each day’s corn I will not miss,*  
*Rub stomach.* |
| "Gobble, gobble, gobble."  
*Make mouth shape with hand, opening and closing it while sounding like a turkey.* | *And when I talk, I sound like this:*  
*Point to lips; Cup hand next to ear.* |
|  | **GOBBLE! GOBBLE! GOBBLE!**  
*Shout.* |

**Make a Pine Cone Turkey.** Bend a pipe cleaner to look like a head. Glue this to the rounded end of a pinecone with the bump protruding somewhat above the cone for the head of the turkey. Glue foam or paper leaves in orange, red, yellow, green and tan in the back of the pine cone to look like feathers. If your pinecone is too wobbly, hot glue it to a piece of cardboard for stability. You can also tie a string around the body and hang it from the ceiling. *(Idea and photo from www.familycorner.com/family/kids/crafts/pinecone_turkey.shtml)*
Make a **Hand Print Turkey**. Materials needed: Heavy Paper, Brown Paint, Feathers. Dip child’s hand in paint, and make a handprint on the paper (make sure the fingers are spread). Draw on a beak and glue on feathers. We have also added beads for eyes.

**Snack:** Use a rice cake for the body, sliced apples for feathers and Ritz crackers are the head. Add raisins for eyes, candy corn for the beak and a gummy worm for the wattle. Bond together with peanut or soy butter. (*Idea from Idaho’s Fish & Game’s Wild about Early Learners*)

**Printables and other Resources:**

More songs and fingerplays: [http://stepbystepcc.com/animals/turkey.html](http://stepbystepcc.com/animals/turkey.html)


National Wild Turkey Federation info for educators: [www.nwtf.org/jakes/](http://www.nwtf.org/jakes/)

**More great books to share:**

*The Turkey Girl*, retold by Penny Pollock, illustrated by Ed Young. A Zuni Cinderella type legend, this beautifully illustrated book tells how some turkeys make a doeskin dress for a poor girl.

*High Ridge Gobbler: The Story of the American Wild Turkey*, by David Stemple, illustrated by Ted Lewin. An accurate, well researched, description of the life of turkeys follows a brood of young gobblers through three years of their development.

*Turkey Riddles*, by Katy Hall and Lisa Eisenberg, pictures by Kristin Sorra. This is a fun book to read aloud.

*All About Turkeys*, written and illustrated by Jim Arnosky. This introductory level book by a naturalist, who is also an award winning artist, discusses the life and characteristics of the wild turkey.

*Wild Turkeys*, by Julian May, pictures by John Hamberger. This book discusses the history and natural life of the wild turkey and the domestic turkey.

*Turkey in the Straw* by Barbara Shook Hazen, pictures by Brad Sneed. When a farmer, who prefers fiddling to doing the chores, has a bad spell of problems on his farm, he invites his neighbors to a hoedown, and plays such a lively tune even his shy daughter’s pet turkey starts dancing, with happy results.