

Make Thanksgiving Turkey Place Cards

First grade students work hard to learn about the “conventions” of writing. These are the rules of writing, such as beginning each sentence with a capital letter, writing from left to right, leaving spaces between words, using capital letters at the beginning of proper nouns, and ending each sentence with a punctuation mark. Repeated practice is the key to mastering these conventions.

You can easily reinforce these conventions at home by giving your child lots of practice in using them. Here's a fun way to get your youngster practicing the correct use of capital letters, while at the same time welcoming guests to your Thanksgiving dinner. Your first grader will be prouder than a turkey – er, peacock – when he shows off his colorful work!



What You Need:

- 5x8 index cards
- glue or tape
- ink pad (brown or orange)
- colored pencils
- colored markers
- post-it notes
- mini-muffin liners in a variety of colors, cut in half

What You Do:

1. Fold the index cards in half so they can stand up, teepee style.
2. On post-it notes, make a list of family members who will be attending your Thanksgiving gathering. As you write each person's name, think aloud to remind your child when it is appropriate to use capital letters: “Alice starts with a capital A because it's her name.” After you've made the list, check to be sure your child understood the capital letters concept. Ask her to identify a capital letter in one of the names on the list.
3. Now have your child copy each person's name on an index card, using colored pencils in holiday colors. Be sure to offer praise for the correct use of capital letters.
4. At the top center of the card, have her stamp her thumbprint in brown or orange ink. The print should go right to the top edge of the card. Let the print dry.
5. When the thumbprint is completely dry, have her use markers to draw a circle in the middle of the print to form the turkey's face. Then have her draw eyes, a small beak, and a wattle. At the bottom of the print, she can draw skinny turkey feet.
6. Glue half a mini muffin liner to the top center of the back of the place card so that it looks like a fan of turkey feathers peeking over the top of the card.
7. Repeat for additional place cards, so that you have one place card for each guest. Now before your guests sit down to gobble up their dinner, they'll be welcomed to the table.