



**Playdatebox**

# THANKSGIVING

THE PURPOSE OF A PLAYDATEBOX IS TO CONNECT GENERATIONS THROUGH PLAY



## PLAN YOUR PLAYDATE:

Choose 1 picture book



Choose 1 hands-on activity



Choose 1 question



Gather supplies in advance for instant fun with the grandkids

Play together in person or via videoconference

## THE PURPOSE:

Develop relationships virtually or in-person

## HOW IT WORKS:

This month's play experience was created by Tina Day. Tina, or "Nonna," as her grandchildren know her, often plans special Nonna Camp activities for her grandchildren. Most of them live some distance away, so opportunities to gather them and help them have playful experiences together has been an important part of her "Intentional Grandparenting" experience.

I hope you'll be inspired by her creativity. All you have to do is gather your own supplies and downloads, and PRESTO! you have a Thanksgiving Playdate all ready to go!

-Grandma Nae

# WHAT'S IN NONNA'S PLAYDATEBOX?



Here's what Tina included in her Playdate. You might choose different items for yours:



## Picture Book: Thanks For Thanksgiving

A fun book about all of the things we can be grateful for at Thanksgiving, complete with space to fill in your own ideas of what you are grateful for.

## Kids' Aprons

Dress for mess for this Playdate! Aprons or paint smocks are a must!



## Turkey Cupcake Supplies

Clear school glue, decorative floral sand, baking soda, and some contact lens solution are all you'll need to make this fun, stretchable goop. Add sea glass, and small seashells for more fun.

## Thanksgiving Tree Painting Supplies

A free printable, a head of broccoli, and some acrylic paints are all you need for this fun autumn craft.



## Roll-a-Turkey Game Supplies

A purchased Etsy download, some M&M's and a few dice are all you need for this fun pre-Thanksgiving game.

## Building Your Own Playdatebox...

For "local" grandkids, I store a plastic tote with the above supplies so I'm ready to play at a moment's notice. For long-distance grandkids, I ship play supplies via Amazon or snail mail. We use Zoom to play together just like we would if we could be in-person!



MAKE SOME EASY

# NUTTER BUTTER TURKEY CUPCAKES

LOW-MESS COOKING WITH KIDS

## Supplies You'll Need

- Baked cupcakes
- Prepared chocolate frosting
- Nutter Butter Peanut Cookie Sandwiches
- Golden Oreos (or other vanilla sandwich cookies)
- Candy Corns
- Candy Eyes
- Red Fruit Roll-ups or Red Licorice strings
- Aprons

Find an abundance of tutorials for these fun cupcakes on the Internet. We liked the simplicity of this one on the [mommysavers.com](https://mommysavers.com) website:

Visit <https://mommysavers.com/nutter-butter-turkey-cupcakes/>

*Memories with  
Grandma*

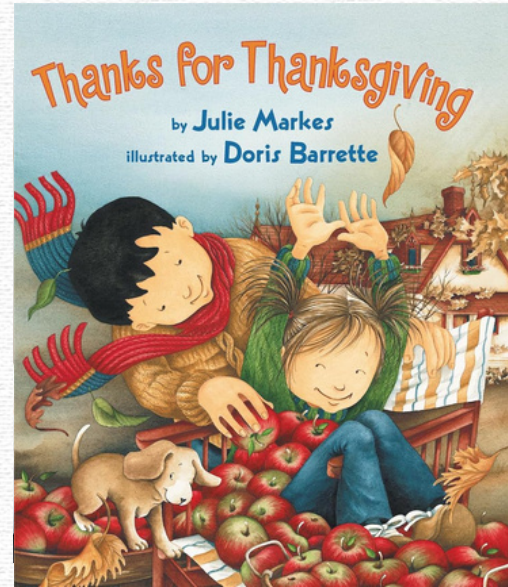
# TURKEY *Cupcakes*



The secret to success is having your supplies ready to go when the grandkids arrive. A paper plate and knife for each of them, plus containers to hold all of the ingredients you will use for this fun craft. Nonna included a large photo of the finished cupcake so the kids would have a visual to work from.

# STORYTIME

*Thanks for Thanksgiving*



Nonna gathered the grandkids for a favorite Thanksgiving Read-Aloud, *Thanks for Thanksgiving*, by Julie Marks, illustrated by Doris Barrette. This book includes space at the back to write in things you are grateful for.

# AUTUMN TREE CRAFT

**CREATE WHILE YOU TALK ABOUT GRATITUDE**

## ➤➤➤ *The Setup*

Tina had a separate table ready for painting. The kids still had their aprons on, so it was just a matter of moving to the next station to get started.

## *Supplies Needed:*

- [Free Tree Download](#)
- Paper plate
- Craft paints: red, orange, yellow
- A head of fresh broccoli
- painting smocks or aprons

## ➤➤➤ *Time to Paint!*

This fun and easy craft includes a [free download you'll print off in advance](#). Tina put a large paper plate in the center and squeezed out a dollop of red, orange, brown, and yellow paint. The grandkids used a small floret of broccoli dipped in paint, and then dabbed on autumn colors all over their own trees. As they were painting, Tina asked them to name some things they have been grateful for during the past year.



# AUTUMN *Trees*



This fun template can be used year-round. Paint with autumn colors in the fall, use white and light blue for snow-covered trees in winter, and make pink blossoms in the springtime. Use crumpled bubble wrap in place of broccoli if you are concerned about food waste.

# ROLL-A-TURKEY

## Game



[Download the free printable](#) for this fun game perfect for preschoolers and elementary-school-aged grandkids. Just spin the dice and fill in one M&M on your game card. The first player to fill up all the spaces on the turkey tail wins!



## Connection Questions:

What did you like to do at Thanksgiving when you were little?

**Watch The Video:** Take a look at the video footage from *Nonna's playdate here:*



**Connection Questions** help create bridges of connection between you and your grandchild. Take turns answering any of these questions, and when possible, record or write down the answers!

Some additional questions:

- Do you have special memories of visiting your grandparents for Thanksgiving? Tell your grandchildren about it.
- Did your family have any traditions for Thanksgiving when you were younger?
- What is the thing you are MOST grateful for this year?
- Were you ever a long way away from home at Thanksgiving? Tell the story, including how you felt being away from your family.

Special Thanks To ShandeeLynn Photo for the beautiful photographs of Nonna's Thanksgiving Playdate.

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