



Thankful for Friends

I Am Thankful for My Friends

Activity Goal:

Students listen and attend to a story introducing the monthly theme unit and participate by matching and/or receptively identifying pictures related to the theme.

Embedded Skill Targets:

Curricular Area	Learning Spectrum		
	Increased support needs	→	Extended learning
Receptive and Expressive Language	Attending Object imitation Picture identification Following one-step directions	Following two-step directions Receptive/expressive nouns	Commenting using phrases
Academic Skills	Matching shapes	Comprehension of picture books Identification of items in a book	Sight word reading Reading a simple book

Materials:

Provided:

- "I Am Thankful for My Friends" story
- Unit introduction video
- Vocabulary pictures

Needed:

- Hole punch or stapler
- Binder rings or staples
- Scissors
- Hook and loop fastener

Preparation:

1. Assemble the book:
 - a. Print and laminate the book pages.
 - b. Hole-punch the top left corner of the pages.
 - c. To bind the book, place a ring through the hole.
2. Print, laminate, and cut out the vocabulary pictures.
3. Affix hook and loop fastener to the:
 - a. Back of each vocabulary picture
 - b. Black "shadow" cut-outs on the book pages, where indicated

Helpful Learning Tools

- Use the corresponding digital REEL as an alternative or complement to the printable materials.
- Review the Learning Differentiation Guide to individualize this lesson for each student's learning level.

Instructions:

1. Prior to starting the monthly theme unit, read the story to the class to introduce vocabulary concepts.
2. Pass out one vocabulary picture to each student. If you have more students than vocabulary pictures, divide the class into smaller groups to read the story or read the story multiple times to give different students a chance to interact with the book.
3. Read the story to the class. On each page with a missing vocabulary picture:
 - a. Read the story text.
 - b. Label the missing picture.
 - c. Prompt the student with the missing picture to add it to the story so it completes the page.
4. Read the story again with the completed vocabulary pictures added. Encourage students to point to and/or expressively label each picture as you read.
 - a. Read the story text.
 - b. Give the cue "point to the X [vocabulary]."
 - c. For students working on expressive nouns, immediately ask, "What is it?"
 - d. For students working on more complex language skills, ask *wh*- questions (e.g., "What do you do with X [vocabulary]?").
5. Show the complementary video and have students identify and answer questions about the concepts presented.
6. Continue reading the book and showing the video throughout the month, increasing the complexity of questions and expected responses as students become more familiar with the unit's theme.



I Am Thankful for My Friends



Friends play together and help each other. There are many ways to be a good friend.





Friends play together and share toys. These friends are building a tower with blocks.



Friends read books together. These friends are reading books together at the table.



Friends talk to each other about their favorite animals, games, and toys. Friends also listen to each other when they talk.



Friends help each other. This person is helping their friend get up from the floor.



Friends laugh together. Some friends like to tell jokes or act silly!



Friends make art together by painting, coloring, or drawing. These friends are painting together.



Friends at school go to P.E., art, music, and recess together. These friends are running together in P.E.



Wow! There are so many fun ways to be a good friend. I'm so thankful for my friends!

Vocabulary pictures

