

DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

PRESCHOOL – “TERRIFIC TURKEYS”

Activity Time

30 minutes

Program Alignment with Iowa Early Learning Standards

Area 5: Creative Arts

Music, Rhythm, and Movement

Standard 5.2.PS Children participate in a variety of music and movement experiences.

5.2.PS.1 The child participates in a variety of musical and rhythmic experiences, including singing, dancing, listening, playing simple rhythmic and pitched instruments, and creating and singing chants, rhymes, and finger plays from diverse cultures.

Area 8: Science

Scientific Investigations

Standard 8.1.PS Children gather information and conduct investigations to address their wonderings and test solutions to problems.

8.1.PS.1 The child asks questions about his or her environment and begins to identify and look for information that will help answer those questions or solve problems.

8.1.PS.5 The child observes, investigates, and describes the characteristics, behavior, and habitats of living things.

8.1.PS.7 The child develops an awareness of nature through the exploration of natural environments and materials or through caring for animals and plants.

Scientific Reasoning

Standard 8.2.PS Children use reasoning to make sense of information and design solutions to problems in their environment.

8.2.PS.3 The child uses prior experiences and/or data from observations to identify patterns in how living and nonliving things stay the same or change over time and/or when conditions change such as plants grow with the proper amount of water and light; combine substances; heat/cool and item; and baby animals generally resemble their parents.

Scientific Communication

Standard 8.3 PS Children will share information and understanding about experiences in their environment.

8.3.PS.3 The child begins to ask questions of others to seek more information on a topic and participates in generating questions to ask a visiting expert on the topic of interest.

Contact:

Environmental Education
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Supplies

- Turkey fan
- Turkey beard
- Turkey foot
- Turkey wing
- Turkey bone
- Picture of male turkey
- Picture of female turkey
- Picture of turkey poult
- Pictures of turkey predators
- Bluetooth speaker and turkey calls

Program Overview

Background

Wild turkeys can be found in many different habitats throughout North America. They are different from the typical domesticated turkey that is raised by farmers for food. These birds are ground dwelling but do have the ability to fly. They search for their food on foot during the day and then fly up in a tree to safely roost for the night. Wild turkeys also look different than domesticated turkeys. Wild turkeys have beautiful copper, bronze, gold and iridescent feathers while domesticated turkeys are typically all white.

A wild turkey’s diet will change depending on the season and what is available. They will eat acorns, insects, leaves, berries, fruit, seeds and even sometimes a small snake or frog. At night, wild turkeys need to watch out for predators such as coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, great horned owls and eagles.

An adult male turkey is called a gobbler; an adult female is called a hen and a young turkey is a poult. Adult males will puff out their beautiful feathers and strut to impress a female. They are also the ones that make the typical “gobble, gobble, gobble” sound we associate with turkeys. Turkeys are beautiful and interesting birds and by the end of this lesson, student will see just how terrific turkeys really are!

Procedure

1. The naturalist will begin the program by asking students if they have ever seen a wild turkey. Where did they see it? What was it doing? What do turkeys eat? Were there other turkeys nearby?
2. The naturalist will then lead students on an exploration of the turkey during which they will have the opportunity to see and touch several real turkey body parts, listen to the different calls of turkeys, and learn about what turkeys eat and what eats them. Students will learn the differences between a male turkey and female as well as make comparisons between an adult and baby turkey.
3. At the end of the lesson, the naturalist and students will sing the song “Five Wild Turkeys are We.” Students will use their large motor skills to act out being a turkey, hiding in a tree and staying quiet. This will help students remember the different predators of turkeys and also help them remember where turkeys spend the night to be safe from harm.