

# thanksgiving craft

## Be thankful

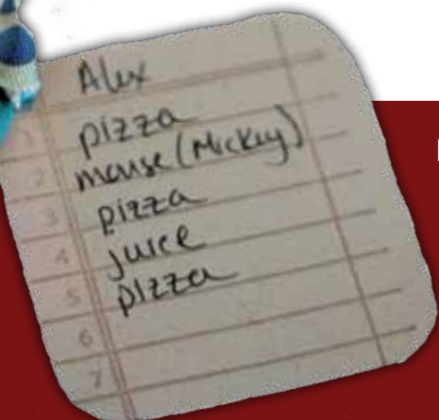
by Krista Klinkhammer

This November, moms all over the country will be encouraging kids to think about what they are thankful for. Instead of just talking about being thankful, have your kids write it down (or jot it down for them if they can't write) on little note cards. You can then use the note cards to decorate for Thanksgiving in a variety of ways. When Thanksgiving is over, you can pack up these little gems of wisdom with the rest of your decorations and either add to them next year, or simply read and reflect on them with your kids.

A couple of years ago, I made a "Thankful" wall hanging that came from a Cocoa Daisy scrapbooking kit designed by Mou Saha ([www.cocoadaisy.com](http://www.cocoadaisy.com)). I asked my kids what they were thankful for, wrote down the responses, and stuck them in the envelope of the wall hanging. Every year since, when I take out the wall hanging to put up, we review what they were thankful for in 2009. We get the biggest kick out of reading what Alex, age 18 months, was thankful for: pizza, juice, (Mickey) Mouse, pizza. It's a great way to start a conversation on how much they have grown in the past year, and also what they are currently thankful for.

Here are some other ways you can use note cards full of thanks in decorating:

- » Write out each item your child is thankful for on to fall-colored cardstock and hang them by clothes pins.
- » Punch or cut circles, write the things your child is thankful for on them, and hang them with ribbon on to branches in a vase as a table centerpiece.
- » If you are hosting Thanksgiving, ask your guests to fill out a card with what they are thankful for when they arrive, fold it up and put in a jar. During dinner, everyone can choose one randomly and try to guess who wrote it.
- » Decorate an envelope in a fall theme, write the items on a little slip of paper and keep them in the envelope. Put it away until the following year.
- » Cut paper in the shape of feathers, write on the feathers, and use them to decorate a picture of a turkey.



### Here are links to some cute, free Thanksgiving printables:

[www.hostessblog.com/2010/10/free-grateful-mod-party-printables-for-operation-give-thanks](http://www.hostessblog.com/2010/10/free-grateful-mod-party-printables-for-operation-give-thanks)

<http://puertabella.blogspot.com/2010/11/thankful-for-paper-glitter.html>

<http://mybabyfaves.blogspot.com/2010/11/project-secret-santa-giving-thanks.html>