When We Are Kind
by Monique Gray Smith

In this beautiful book, a child looks at the many ways they can show kindness. The book also demonstrates how it feels when others are kind to us. The inclusive and vibrant illustrations feature Indigenous persons and culture.

The text is very simple making this an accessible and lovely book for all ages. We all need more kindness in our lives.

Thank you, Omu
by Oge Mora

Omu is really looking forward to eating the delicious stew she is cooking, but she is a very generous person. So when neighbors (lured by the yummy smell) begin knocking on her door, Omu graciously shares bowl after bowl and soon finds she’s left none for herself. What will she do?

This is a lovely message served up in an attractive and entertaining book. Preschool and young schoolage.

Other fun books about Gratitude

All books that have an asterisk are available to read as an e-book on OverDrive.

Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message
by Chief Jake Swamp

A beautifully illustrated version of a Native American morning prayer. Preschool and young schoolage.

Thank You and Good Night
by Patrick McDonnell

A sweet book about a young girl putting her stuffed toys to sleep. Toddler and Preschool.

Gracias/Thanks
by Pat Mora

Bilingual English/Spanish text and vibrant illustrations make this an ideal book to share about being thankful for the many blessings of life.

We Are Grateful/Otsaliheliga
by Traci Sorell

The seasons provide the backdrop of the many things for which to be grateful in this lovely picture book in English and Cherokee. Preschool and young schoolage.

*Thankful
by Eileen Spinelli

Using simple words, and one family’s many activities, this book is filled with gratitude.

The Thankful Book
by Mo Willems

Piggie wants to thank everyone for all they do and is convinced she will not forget anyone. A fun book about gratitude. Preschool and young schoolage.
**Activities for December**

**Gratitude Jar**

**Examples:**
- “What made you smile today?”
- “What do you love most about your home?”
- “What smells are you thankful for?”
- “What food are you thankful for?”
- “What makes a friend a good friend?”

Write these prompts on slips of paper and put them into the jar. Make sure there are enough for the entire month.

Every day, take one prompt out of the jar and engage the children in conversation about that question.

**Helping Hands Classroom**

Trace and cut out multiple hands for each child. Place them in a location that is easily accessible. Pull out a few of the hands and engage the children in a discussion about times when they have helped one another or themselves.

For each example, tape a hand onto the wall (or onto a large paper) to begin your Helping Hands Chain.

As time goes by, whenever you recognize a child’s helping hand behavior, have the child choose a hand from the supply and add it to the chain. If they are placed on the wall, they can wrap around the room.

On a regular basis, celebrate how long the helping hand chain is getting!

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**Rhyme of the Month**

My Hands Say Thank You

My hands say thank you with a clap, clap, clap.
My feet say thank you with a tap, tap, tap.
Clap, clap, clap.
Tap, tap, tap.
Turn around and bow.

**Poem of the Month**

**Thanku**

Poems of Gratitude

We need to give thanks

Every dawn
For the gifts of life
For each breath drawn
For everything that keeps us living
We speak our words
Of true thanksgiving.

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Did You Know?

You may be able to access -
Health Care Premium Assistance for Employees of Child Care Facilities | Washington Health Benefit Exchange (wahbexchange.org)

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My hands say thank you with a clap, clap, clap.
My feet say thank you with a tap, tap, tap.
Clap, clap, clap.
Tap, tap, tap.

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Every dawn
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For each breath drawn
For everything that keeps us living
We speak our words
Of true thanksgiving.

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Clap, clap, clap.
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Clap, clap, clap.
Tap, tap, tap.

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*Thanku* by Joseph Bruchac

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*My Hands Say Thank You* by Joseph Bruchac

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