
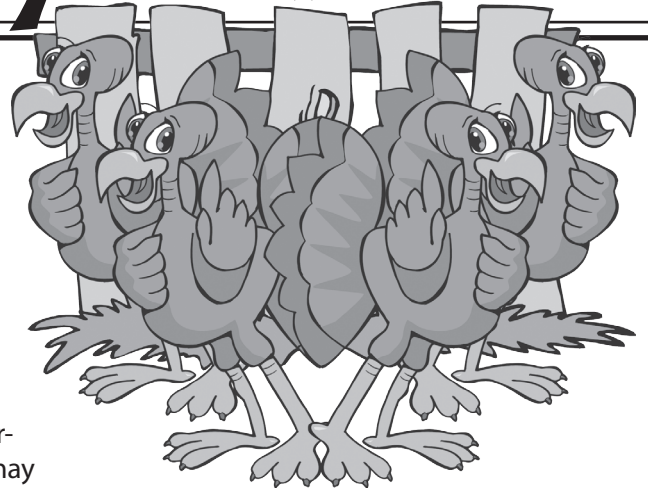


# THE TURKEY TROT

Lesson Suggestions by Deborah A. Imiolo

**Target Concepts:** Melody • Rhythm

**Materials:**  The Turkey Trot Chart • Barred Instruments  
Guiro • Conga • Triangle



## Lesson Suggestions

1. Begin the lesson by telling the following story, dramatized with a fingerplay. Hold one hand in front of you as the fence and use the other to represent the turkeys, holding up the corresponding number of fingers to represent the turkeys. You may wish to add more drama and excitement by explaining all the ways a turkey might try and fail to get over the fence. For example, one turkey might try to jump over the fence, another might try by getting a running start, etc.

*Once upon a time, a turkey went walking, (high pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble." He came to a fence. He couldn't jump over, so he had to go under it, (low pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble."*

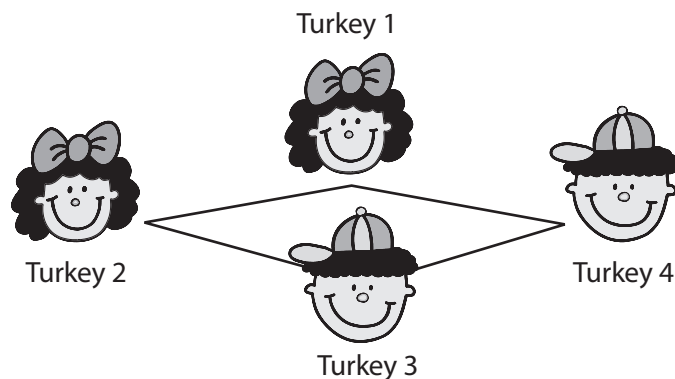
*A second little turkey went walking, (high pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble." He came to a fence. He couldn't jump over, so he had to go under it, (low pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble."*

*A third little turkey went walking, (high pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble." He came to a fence. He couldn't jump over, so he had to go under it, (low pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble."*

*A fourth little turkey went walking, (high pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble." He came to a fence. He couldn't jump over, so he had to go under it, (low pitched voice) "Gobble, gobble, gobble."*

*And do you know what they did on the other side of the fence? They did a dance called the Turkey Trot! (Pat your legs saying these words as fast as you can) Do the Turkey Trot, do the Turkey Trot, do the Turkey Trot. Stop!*

2. Perform the fingerplay story again but sing the song (see pages 30–31). The students may join in with the song, if they wish.
3. Select four students to help you teach the class the Turkey Trot. Place the volunteers in a square and assign each child to be one of the turkeys. Instruct turkeys 1 and 3 to hold hands, and turkeys 2 and 4 to hold hands over the top of 1 and 3's hands. Lead the volunteers through the song and movements as follows:



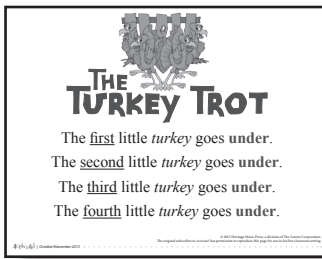
*Lyrics*

*Movements*

The first little turkey goes under.	Turkeys 2 and 4 lift their arms over 1 as 1 goes underneath.
The second little turkey goes under.	Turkeys 2 and 4 lift their arms over 3 as 3 goes underneath.
The third little turkey goes under.	Turkeys 1 and 3 lift their arms over 2 as 2 goes underneath.
The fourth little turkey goes under.	Turkeys 1 and 3 lift their arms over 4 as 4 goes underneath.

The foursome should end in a basket hold/basket formation. Then on the words, "Do the Turkey Trot," instruct the children to jump up and down, stopping on the word, "Stop!" If they finish in a standing position, you can tell them that they win!

4. Present the Turkey Trot Chart and demonstrate each part, selecting students to play the instruments. All number words should be played with the guiro(s); "turkey" should be played on triangles; and "under" should be played on barred percussion (F-D-C) and conga.



**Extension Ideas**

- Introduce the following poem. When the students can recite it confidently, allow them to improvise in F pentatonic. Challenge the children by telling them to play the word "late" on a C and to play the word "plate" on an F.

Gobble, gobble, Turkey Nate.  
Hurry, hurry, don't be late!  
I will open up the gate.  
So you won't be on a plate!

- Teach/reinforce *fermata* by holding the last sound before "Do the Turkey Trot" until you (or a selected student) gives the cut off.

# THE TURKEY TROT

*Deborah A. Imiolo*

*Andante*

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Voice

third lit - tle tur-key goes un - der. The fourth lit - tle tur-key goes un - der.

SG/AG  
SX/AX

Triangle  
Guiro  
Conga

BX/BM

CBB

9

Voice

Do the tur-key trot. Do the tur-key trot. Do the tur-key trot. STOP!

SG/AG  
SX/AX

Triangle  
Guiro  
Conga

BX/BM

CBB