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My First Thanksgiving

As a young boy, I remember going to kindergarten the week before Thanksgiving break. This was the day we were able to dress up for the festivities. I remember learning a variety of different lessons on who the Pilgrims were and who the Native Americans were. I remember learning about where they both came from, what they wore and what they ate. Therefore, that day my mom sent me to school wearing baggy brown clothes and a paper headband with a feather glued to the back. When I got there, there was two different tables set up followed by an area that was completely closed off. The first table had pieces of paper, markers, crayons, feathers, and other crafting materials. Here, we took a piece of paper, laid our hand down flat and traced around it. Then we were told to color our hand like a turkey so I colored the palm brown, and the fingers different colors with my thumb being the face. Then I added feathers to the fingers and finished off my turkey with an orange beak. The next table I went to had big ice cream cones, the brown ones; I believe they are called waffle cones? Anyways, the table also had frosting and different candies such as jellybeans, skittles, sweet-tarts and so on. What we were told to do was frost the bottom of a plate and stick the ice cream cone upside down on the plate. Then we frosted the cone and decorated it like a teepee with different colors and such. After this was done we set it aside to dry and then the rest of my class went and sat in the closed off area. Here they set up a table with chairs all around with a ton of different sundae making materials. There was ice cream, candy, syrups, cones and bowls. My teacher and a couple of parents started three lines and asked each of us what we wanted; a bowl or a cone and then they put ice cream in them for us. Then we got to add all the different toppings we wanted and then we went and sat down. After sitting down my teacher began to talk. She said things like, “Remember this week when we talked about the big feast with the Pilgrims and the Indians? Well that is what we are doing right now! Some of you have dressed as Indians and some have dressed like Pilgrims. This represents the first Thanksgiving.” and “I want each of you to go around the table and tell us what you’re thankful for.” This began to spark conversation. Rather than talking our ears off about the first Thanksgiving, she showed us what it was like with our ice cream. As a kid, all I think I learned from this was that the Pilgrims came over on three boats to have dinner with the Indians. Obviously, I know more about it now but that is what I got from that whole experience. I think when we were kids we do not really understand things but learning back then we didn’t have the biases we have now. We just thought the Pilgrims and the Indians were friends and that they had dinner together. Now I know that the Pilgrims really came to America because of religion and that is why the first Thanksgiving happened.