



Literacy Fun with Pumpkins

You can use pumpkins and pumpkin parts for literacy, math and science activities. Using real natural items from the environment is a great way to bring nature into learning.

Pumpkin Alphabet Games!

Spot the Letter: choosing familiar or important letters, such as those from your child's name, ask them to find a certain one as quickly as they can and point to it. "Can you find the letter at the beginning of Mummy?"

Letter Sound I-Spy: Say "I spy a letter that makes the sound Ssssssss like a snake! Can you find it?" Emphasise the sounds not the names of the letters.

Noisy Letter Buttons: Say "Find letter F and push it to make its sound noisy!" Child pushes on the foam letter F and says "ffffff". Make sure they are making the sound not the letter name.

Letter or Number? Point to a random foam sticker and say "letter or number?" Child has to quickly discriminate which it is, a good challenge for young children!

Upper and Lower Case Snap! The picture is of upper case letters but lower case letters are the best place to start but if you have both on the same pumpkin, then point to capital D and say "find me his lower case partner!" Child looks for lowercase "d" and shouts "Snap!" Make it a race between siblings!



Pumpkin Activities

How a pumpkin grows.

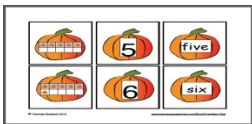
<http://www.kizclub.com/Topics/food/pumpkin.pdf>

Pumpkin Match (File Folder Game)

<http://www.preschoolprintables.com/filefolder/pumpkin/filefolderpumpkin.shtml>

Pumpkin Counting

<http://lessonpix.com/images/PumpkinNumberCards.pdf>



Pumpkin Pie Playdough

- 2 ½ cup of flour
- 1 tablespoons of cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 2 teaspoons [pumpkin pie spice](#)
- 1 cup of boiling water
- 3 tablespoon of oil
- food coloring



Directions:

In a bowl measure out all the dry ingredients with your child. Then in a measuring cup add the food colouring and oil to the hot water and mix into the dry ingredients. Be careful as it may be hot.

Store in a sealed container. Use pumpkin seeds, sticks, toothpicks, playdough tools, etc. with your playdough to make some interesting creations.

5 Little Pumpkins (Fingerplay)

5 little pumpkins sitting on a gate. (*hold up hand with five fingers displayed*)

The first one said, "Oh, my! It's getting late!" (*hold up one finger and so on...*)

The second one said, "There are witches in the air."

The third one said, "But we don't care."

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run and run!"

The fifth one said, "I'm ready for some fun."

Oooh went the wind (*wave hands like the wind*)

And OUT when the lights (*clap your hands*)

And five little pumpkins rolled out of sight! (*roll arms and then hide them behind your back*)

<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/PumpkinsFiveLittleRhyme.htm>



OCTOBER EARLY LITERACY CALENDAR



<h1>October</h1> 		International Music Day 	Listen to your favorite music & play an instrument	Sing your favorite nursery rhymes!	Library Day! 	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
World Teacher's Day 	Make a special card for your teacher/caregiver.	Rake leaves outside, talk about the colours and have fun jumping in them.	Read a book about fall. 	Paint a turkey with your hand. 	Make matching cards for Fall items; pumpkins, leaves, scarecrows.	Visit a pumpkin patch & talk about how they grow.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Follow a recipe to make pumpkin cookies! 	Happy Thanksgiving! 	At bedtime, talk about what your favorite thing was that you did on the long week-end.	Visit your local library or playgroup for storytime.	Sing Fall songs http://www.preschoolexpress.com/music_station07/fall-leaves-songs-rhymes-sep07.shtml	Make a leaf rubbing –put a leaf under a paper & rub crayon over top.	Go for a nature walk and talk about the trees; the changes and their names.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Practice using a flashlight at night. Make shadow puppets on your wall.	Use chocolate pudding in a bag to practice writing letters.	Read a book about a cat. 	Sing the fingerplay “Five Little Pumpkins”	Make pumpkin picture on a paper plate. 	Count how many pumpkins you see while out for a walk in the community.	Make a grocery list, go shopping and check things off as you get them.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Carve a pumpkin! 	Follow a recipe to make pumpkin muffins. http://www.cookingwithmykid.com/recipes/best-ever-pumpkin-muffins/	Make a spider web with painter’s tape, then pretend you’re a spider.	Read a Halloween book! 	Talk about your Halloween costume, where you will go trick or treating and what you will say.		