

Helps and Hints

Family Child Care Newsletter

Childhood Services

Arkansas State

University

2007

Helps and Hints Family Child Care Newsletter is funded by the Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Little Rock, Arkansas

Special Issue:

Harvest

Apples

Pumpkins

You will find information about all 3 subjects in this issue!

Inside this issue:

Art & Creativity

Sing, Song, Sway

Math & Manipulatives

Sensory

Special Section

And much more!

It's Harvest Time!

Harvest time means food! But changes in society and improvements in farming technology have altered our Harvest Time celebrations and traditions. It's easier now to buy fresh foods in supermarkets year-round. Our Harvest Time celebrations have often been reduced to stocking food pantries at our local church or volunteer organizations. With progress comes change, and with change, we often see the loss of those things most familiar.

Fall can still be a time of learning and adventure for the children in our care. We must make a point to show our children just how wonderful this time of year can be. You may ask how this can be done. Explore this newsletter and discover the many ways to engage your children in fun and relevant activities for this time of year.



Start planning now!

10th Annual Family Child Care Conference

April 18-19, 2008

Holiday Inn

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Registration Information coming soon!

Call 1-888-429-1585 for more information.



Parent Involvement



Send home a newsletter or letter informing parents of the fall harvest theme. Ask parents to write down any special stories they have about celebrating the fall harvest. Ask parents to volunteer to come in and tell a fall harvest story to the children or come in and read a fall harvest book to the children. Send home a newsletter or letter informing parents of the pumpkins theme. Ask parents to discuss at home what pumpkins are and where they come from, then have a classroom discussion to see what the children learned.



Extra Helpers

www.earlychildhood.com

<http://www.fastq.com/~jbpratt/education/links/eceactonline.html>

<http://www.kinderart.com>

<http://www.kindermusikwithlindseyhamilton.com/>

An additional resource that might be helpful for this and other units:

www.preschoolexpress.com



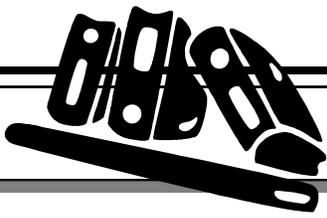


Art & Creativity

- ◆ Let the children make a collage using pictures they cut out. The pictures can be of food, people in fall clothing, etc.
- ◆ Have the children bring a leaf to make a rubbing. Have the children lay construction paper over the leaf and then color the construction paper. Watch the leaf appear.
- ◆ Add red, yellow, and orange paint to the art easel.
- ◆ Collect red, green and yellow apples. Cut the apples. Use green tempera paint for sponge painting.
- ◆ Cut shapes of leaves, nuts, apples and other fall foods out of sponges for sponge painting. Dip sponges in tempera paint and press on construction paper.
- ◆ Let the children paint with cotton dipped in fall colors of tempera paint.
- ◆ Make a seed and nut collage.
- ◆ Use colored rice to make designs on construction paper. Glue rice on paper.
- ◆ Have magazines and scissors and let the children cut out a harvest scene.
- ◆ Place a sheet of construction paper in the bottom of a shallow aluminum pan. Dip an acorn in a small amount of tempera and drop in pan. Roll acorn or hickory nut around in pan on construction paper.
- ◆ Add berry basket or fruit baskets from the grocery store for weaving. Use yarn or construction paper for weaving.

Corn Heads

Use corn shucks that are dry. Soak the shucks in warm water to make them pliable. Fold several long, strong husks in the middle. Tie a strip around the husks near the fold to make a head. Beneath the tied strip, insert two or three smaller husks for arms. Tie another strip below the arms. Shape the bottom half into a long dress or legs. Glue corn silk on head for hair. Draw facial features with colored markers. Give each one of your dolls a personality of its own.



Language Arts

Colors In My Food

Colors, colors, what colors do I see,
In the food the farmer grows for me?
Oranges, carrots, and ripe red tomatoes.
Green string beans and nice brown potatoes.
Yellow butter is to spread on my bread,
Cold white milk and an apple so red,
Yes, these are the food that are best, I know,
Because they help me to grow and grow!



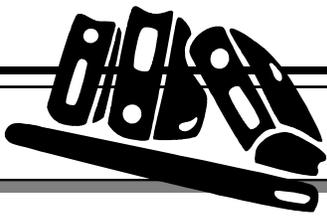
Use flannel board props of foods. Teacher or children may place foods on flannel board as the poem is read. Use real foods at snack time and allow children to eat them when finished.

- ◆ Have pictures of foods and crops in the field.
- ◆ Add pictures of machinery and tools for harvesting fall crops.
- ◆ Pictures of farm equipment and items made from cotton
- ◆ Have the children graph their favorite fall food.
- ◆ Tell the flannel board story "The Big Turnip".
- ◆ Cut pictures of fall crops out of magazines and make a book for the reading center.

Fall Shoes

Ask your children the questions below to create a classroom conversation.

What kind of shoes do you wear in the fall? Do you wear sandals in the fall? Do you wear slippers in the fall? Do you wear snow boots in the fall? What kind of shoes are you wearing today? Do you take care of your shoes? Have you ever polished a pair of shoes? Whose shoes did you polish?



Language Arts

Hey Johnny

Johnny threw a seed
Down on the ground
He made a little hole
And pushed it way down.

Hey Johnny, hey Johnny
What do you know?
Do you think your seed
Will start to grow?

Johnny's seed sprouted
Tiny green leaves,
Then it grew and it grew
Into a big tree.

They looked so pretty,
They smelled so sweet
And when they were ripe
They fell to his feet

Hey Johnny, hey Johnny,
What do you know?
Soon little apples
Started to grow!

First they were green,
Then they were red.
Then one fell off
And hit his head.

Johnny took the apple
And held it in his hand.
Then he started on a
journey across this land.

Hey Johnny, hey Johnny
What do you know?
If you had more seeds
More apples could grow.

Johnny bit his apple,
Then looked inside.
He found more seeds
What a big surprise!

Hey Johnny, Hey Johnny
What do you know?
Now you can plant seeds
Little blossoms did grow.

Johnny roamed the country
And, people say,
He planted seeds
Along the way.

Hey Johnny, hey Johnny
What do you know?
Because of you,
Apples now grow!





Sing, Song, Sway

Farmer and His Seeds

Sung to: "Farmer in the Dell"

The farmer plants the seeds, (Children stoop to pretend to plant seeds)

The farmer plants the seeds,

Hi-Ho the dairy-o,

The farmer plants the seeds.

The sun comes out to shine, etc. (Make large circle with arms)

The rain begins to fall, etc. (Hands flutter up and down)

The seeds begin to grow, etc. (Children begin to rise)

The farmer cuts them down, etc. (Move arms to imitate a mower)

He binds them into sheaves, etc. (Children group together)

And now we'll have some bread. (Pretend to eat)



Five Little Farmers

Five little farmers (fingers of 1 hand close tightly over thumb)

Woke up with the sun (open hand, with fingers and thumb standing upright)

For it was early morning

And chores must be done.

The first little farmer

Went to milk the cow (make milking motion)

The second little farmer

Thought he'd better plow (hold plow; move hand to right and left)

The third little farmer

Fed the hungry hens (hold feed in left hand, toss out with right)

The fourth little farmer

Mended broken pens. (make hammer of fist, pound)





Sing, Song, Sway

Here We Go Harvesting

Sung to: "Frere Jacques"

Here we go harvesting

Here we go harvesting

Around the fields

Around the fields

Here we go harvesting

Here we go harvesting

Around the fields

Around the fields

Apples

Ten little red apples hanging in a row

They all float down so very slow

Down, down, down to the ground

When they get there they'll all turn brown.

Busy Farmers Are Gathering Crops

Sung to "London Bridge"

Busy farmers are gathering crops,
gathering crops, gathering crops

Busy farmers are gathering crops, all
around the farm.

Up and down the fields they go, fields they
go, fields they go,

Up and down the fields, they go, all around
the farm.

Busy farmers will sell the crops, sell the
crops, sell the crops

Busy farmers will sell the crops to eat
when it gets cold.





Sing, Song, Sway

Five Red Apples

Five red apples in the grocery store (hold up five fingers)
Bobby bought one, and then there were four. (bend down one finger)
Four red apples on an apple tree
Susie ate one and then there were three. (bend down one finger)
Three red apples. What did Alice do?
Why, she ate one, and then there were two. (bend down one finger)
Two red apples ripening in the sun
Timmy ate one, and then there was one. (bend down one finger)
One red apple and now we are done
I ate the last one, and now there are none. (bend down last finger)

Harvest Time

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Harvest time is here again
In the garden we must dig
Potatoes, radishes, onions, too
All so good and yummy too.
Harvest time is here again
Won't be long till fall is here.

I'm a Little Apple

Sung to "I'm a Little Teapot"

I'm a little apple,
Short and round.
I make a crunchy,
Munchy sound.
If you bite into me,
You will see
I'm delicious as can be!





Sing, Song, Sway

Munching Apples

Sung to "If You're Happy and You Know It"

If you like to munch apples,

Raise your hand.

If you like to munch apples,

Raise your hand.

If you like to hear them crunch,

And eat them for your lunch,

If you like to munch apples,

Raise your hand.

Repeat, each time substituting a different action for raise your hand.

Four Red Apples

Sung to "This Old Man"

Four red apples in the tree,

Two for you and two for me.

So, shake that tree and watch them fall.

One, two, three, four—that is all

Additional verses: Four green apples in the tree; Four yellow apples in the tree.

Two Green Apples

Way up high

In an apple tree, (Raise arms high)

Two green apples

Smiled at me. (Smile)

So I shook that tree

As hard as I could,

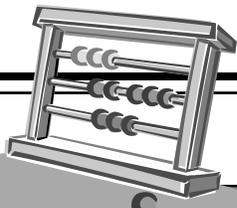
(Pretend to shake tree.)

And down fell the apples,

Mmmm, they were good!

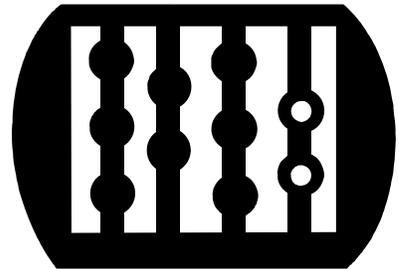
(Rub tummy.)

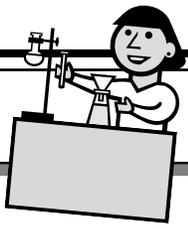
Repeat, substituting red, then yellow, for green.



Math and Manipulatives

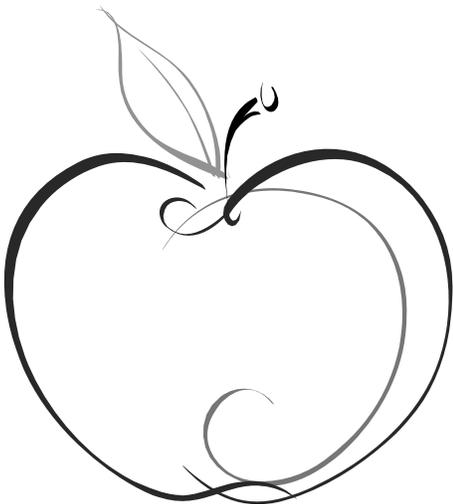
- ◆ Match food pictures to real vegetables, fruits, nuts, etc.
- ◆ Have children sort corn, apples, beans, rice into different categories such as size, color, etc.
- ◆ Use autumn pictures to make simple puzzles by gluing pictures on a piece of cardboard and cut into puzzle pieces.
- ◆ Sort pine cones, nuts, acorns, apples, etc. by size and shape. Record how they are alike and different. Chart your findings.
- ◆ Have the children cut out a paper doll, then cut out fall clothes from an old catalog, newspaper or magazine. Encourage them to dress their doll in a complete fall outfit.
- ◆ Cut from a catalog pictures of people wearing fall and summer clothing. Mount the pictures on poster board. Make a large board with hooks underneath the headings *Fall* and *Summer*, and place beside the words pictures denoting the season. The children can then hang the appropriate picture underneath the correct heading.
- ◆ Make puzzles of fall outfits from pictures mounted on corrugated cardboard and cut into pieces.
- ◆ Place fall food word cards in areas to label as, apples, corn, etc.
- ◆ Let the children draw a map of where they would travel if they were Johnny Appleseed.





Science

- ◆ Place different types and textures of fabric used for fall clothing. Have the children feel the fabric and talk about the differences.
- ◆ Cut from magazine pictures of children's fall clothing and have children sort by size and color
- ◆ Cover the bottom of a flannel board with brown craft paper to represent soil. Place some clouds and the sun at the top. Older preschoolers can tape pictures of different vegetables above or below "the ground" to show where they grow.
- ◆ Children can use their sense of taste to describe and appreciate the characteristics of food products made with apples: applesauce, apple juice, baked apples, apple pie, apple cake, apple butter, bread, and pumpkins.
- ◆ Set out apple seeds (several of them cut in half) and let the children examine them with a magnifying glass. Provide seeds from other fruits and vegetables for comparing.



- ◆ Set out a variety of apples in different sizes, colors and kinds. Include one apple for each of your children. Have your children wash their hands. Then give each child an apple and let him or her examine it and record your findings.
- ◆ Plant apple and pumpkin seeds in Styrofoam cups.



Science

- ◆ Display pictures of tools and machines used by the farmer on the flannel board, table or floor. Label and discuss each picture. Play a guessing game, "I'm thinking of a machine the farmer uses to plow the field. What is it?" Play a visual memory game by removing one picture at a time and asking the children to guess what's missing.
- ◆ Display pictures, plastic, or real vegetables and fall crops grown on the farm. Label each one. Discuss what the plants need to grow, i.e. seeds, soil, sun and water. Use the flannel board to display the various parts of a plant-the roots, stem, flowers. Show how the roots grow under the soil. Ask the children to point to the parts of the plants.
- ◆ Display pictures of crops harvested in the fall.
- ◆ Use a calendar to record the changes in the length of days and the weather.
- ◆ Use a thermometer to check changes in the temperature.
- ◆ Gather "stuff" to show change: dead leaves, dried up flowers, sticks, grasses, gourds, seeds and seed pods, weeds, bark from dead limbs, pine cones, feathers.
- ◆ Have a basket of apples, peanuts and grains (rice) for the children to weigh and record their findings.
- ◆ Discover the star inside an apple. Cut the apple horizontally. Let the children count and examine the seeds.

Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Twist some twine around a large pine cone and tie it securely to make a hanging loop. Mix one cup of peanut butter and 1/2 cup salad oil in a bowl. Then spread the mixture between the petals of the pine cone. Put the pine cone and two cups of bird seed in a paper bag and shake to coat the pine cone with seeds. Hang on a tree limb or window sill so you can watch the birds eat.

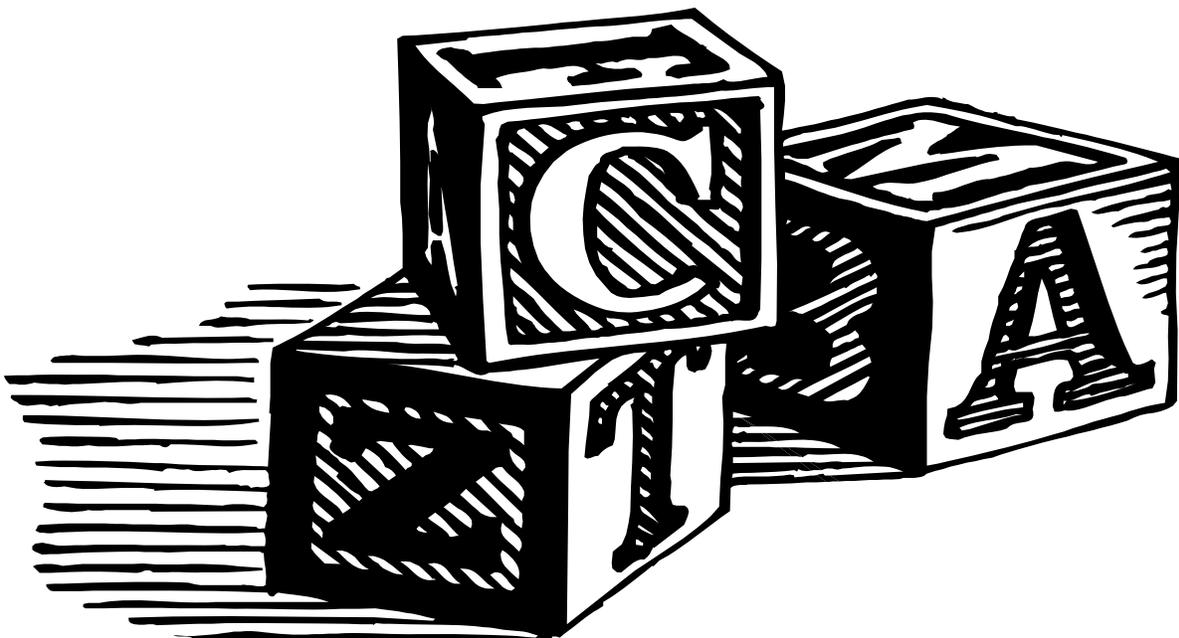
Apple Seeds

Before cutting open an apple, ask the children to predict how many seeds there will be inside. Cut the apple in half horizontally and let the children observe the "Star" that holds the seeds. Count the seeds with the children and have them compare the number with their predictions. Try the experiment with another apple. Does it have the same number of seeds as the first one? Try the same experiment using a different colored apple.



Block Center

- ◆ Add different colors of fall to the blocks. Have fall colors of construction paper, cans for covering, boxes for covering.
- ◆ Place construction paper roads, maps, traffic signs, mountains, trees, rivers and lakes. Discuss with children the route or trail Johnny Appleseed took traveling across the country.
- ◆ Have tractors, combines, etc. to harvest crops. These can be made from boxes and plastic bottles.
- ◆ Add construction paper crops to area. Add small bags of rice for hauling on the tractors.
- ◆ Have vegetable baskets or boxes for building or construction.





Dramatic Play



- ◆ Set up a canning center-let children snap beans.
- ◆ Set up a roadside stand for children to sell harvested foods. Don't forget your signs: Apples for Sale, etc.
- ◆ Add baskets, sacks, paper, pencils, scales, etc.
- ◆ Have clothes for the "market" workers.
- ◆ Add clothes for farmers.
- ◆ Have clothes made from cotton for dress-up
- ◆ Make center into clothing store. Have fall clothes such as gloves, hats, clothes, etc. Encourage children to pretend they are really shopping. Add signs: Fall Clothes for Sale, Close Out Summer Merchandise, Mark Down, etc.
- ◆ Add clothes with fall colors such as orange, yellow, red and brown.
- ◆ Add Johnny Appleseed props: sacks with seeds, pan for hat, etc.



start planning now!

NW Arkansas Spring April 12, 2008 Provider Conference

Jones Center for Families

Springdale, Arkansas

Registration Information coming soon!



Sand and Water



Let the children mix orange, red, yellow and brown tempera with sand in small jars to create an art sculpture. Mix one color of tempera in a large container, then pour a small amount of the mixture into the jar. Press it down with a teaspoon then proceed by pouring another color on top of it.

Add fall leaves to water container. Native American children used leaves for boats. Ask the children what other fall materials you could use to construct a boat.

Set up a miniature farm, using small tractors, barns and animals in the sand area.

Let the children wash plastic vegetables and fruits.

Add acorns in the sand and water container. Using tongs, children can practice picking up acorns, hickory nuts, etc.

Place rice in the area and measuring cups and spoons for measuring.

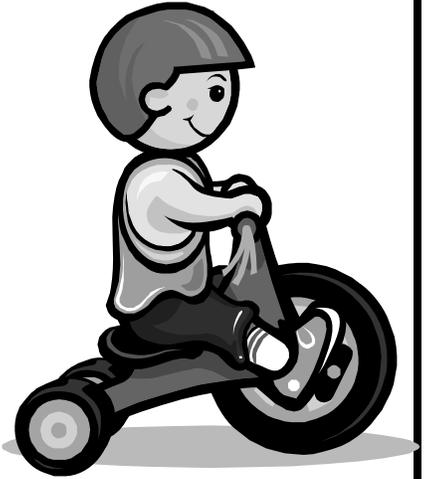
Hide hickory nuts in the sand area and have the children find and count.

Wash cotton fabric and examine and compare to see if there is any shrinkage and observe which fabric dries faster.



Outdoor Learning/Gross Motor/Movement

- ◆ Fill a tub with water. Collect a big spoon and several apples. Have your children take turns putting an apple in the water and trying to scoop it up with the spoon
- ◆ Let the children have dressing races, provide large sweaters, hats, and overalls.
- ◆ Play Squirrel and the Nut (like Drop the Handkerchief).
- ◆ Place masking tape around each child's wrist (Sticky side out). Go for a fall walk. Have children add leaves and small signs of fall to the bracelet.
- ◆ Spread quilt outdoors and bring the books outside.
- ◆ Have baskets for carrying across the balance beam. Place plastic foods such as rice, beans, apples, pumpkins in the baskets.
- ◆ Play "Find the Fall Foods". Hide plastic food on the play area for the children to find and place in their basket. Weigh the baskets of food and compare. Record findings.



Apple Ladder

Place a set of steps against a cupboard to represent a ladder leaning against an apple tree. Help each child in turn climb the steps and "pick" an apple tree. Help each child in turn climb the steps and "pick" an apple that you have placed on top of the cupboard. Then help the child climb down the steps and put the apple into a basket on the floor.

Shining Shoes

Invite the children to polish a pair of shoes. Ask the children to gather at a low table. Have each child tuck any shoelaces inside each of their shoes and then take turns polishing the shoes with a polishing cloth. You may want to purchase a non-toxic, mild polish for the children to use as well. Ask the children to see how clean and shiny they can get their shoes. Talk about other ways children can take care of their belongings.



Outdoor Learning/Gross Motor/Movement

Apple Picking

Tape the outline of a tree on the wall, making the top section high enough so the children have to stretch in order to reach the apples. Stick the apples on the top of the tree with silly putty. Have the children pick the apples one at a time and then squat down to put them in the basket.

Apple First Print

Have the children paint a large apple tree on butcher paper. When the tree is dry, have them make apples by putting the bottom of their fists into the yellow or red paint and then stamping them on the tree. They can make stems on the apples by dipping their index fingers in brown paint and printing one above each apple.

Crumple and Paint Trees

Using small rollers, have the children paint a tree trunk and branches on their sheets of paper. While the trees are drying, let the children crumple pieces of newspaper into tight balls. Using one ball for each color, have the children dip a ball into paint, and then dab it on the tree branches. When finished with that color, take another tight ball, dip it in a second color of paint and dab that color on the tree branches. Continue until the trees are full of fall color.

Leaf Crush

Cut out several large leaf shapes from tag board. Thin down the glue with water and pour small amounts into margarine tubs. Have the children use paint brushes to spread glue over the tag board leaves. (Cover each leaf entirely.) Using both hands, have the children crush the leaves, one or two at a time over the paper leaf. All the pieces will fall on the glue. Continue crushing leaves until the paper leaf is covered.



Books Worth Reading

<u>Books</u>	<u>Author</u>
Harvest Queen	Joanne Robertson and Karen Reczuch
Baby Einstein-Baby MacDonald- A Day On the Farm	Jim Janicek
The Children at the Gate	Edward Lewis Wallant
Harvest (John Deere Fun Flaps)	DK Publishing
Hello, Harvest Moon	Ralph Fletcher and Kate Kiesler
Harvest Mouse	Ting Morris and Graham Rosewarne
Zack's Zipper	Cecilia Minden and Joanne D. Meir
Joshua's Book of Clothes	Alana Frankel
Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing	Judi Barrett
Snap, Snap, Button, Zip	Abigail Tabby and Christopher Moroney
I like Your Buttons	Sarah Marwil Lamstein
The Big Blanket	Karen Pritkin





Art & Creativity

Make a seed collage picture by arranging pumpkin seeds on dark colored paper. To add variety you may also dye seeds different colors using food coloring of desired intensity and one teaspoon vinegar to a cup of water. Spread on paper towel to dry before using.

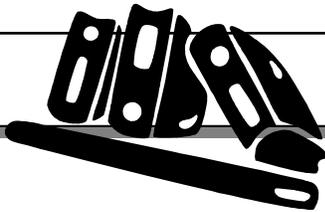
Torn Paper Pumpkins

Give each child a small orange paper plate and a piece of orange construction paper. Let the children tear the paper into small pieces. Then have them glue the pieces all over their paper plates. When they have finished, let them glue on green construction paper stems to complete their torn paper pumpkins.

Pumpkin Patch

Have the children fill paper lunch bags with small pieces of crumpled newspaper. Tie each bag with a twist tie, leaving about 1 inch of the bag gathered at the top. Then have the children paint the bottom parts of their bags orange and the gathered parts green to create pumpkins with stems. When the pumpkins have dried, string them all together with green yarn "vines" to make a "pumpkin patch."

Cut up a pumpkin rind into relatively small pieces. Use them with different colors of paint for "pumpkin printing."



Language Arts

Put two vegetables/pictures on the table. Talk about how they are the same and how they are different. Let the children name the vegetable and label each picture.

The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll

Jack-o-Lantern by Edna Barth

Pumpkin Seeds by Steven Yesback



Sing, Song, Sway

Where's the Pumpkin?

Where is an orange pumpkin who's happy?
Where is an orange pumpkin who sighs?
Where is an orange pumpkin who's sleepy?
Where is an orange pumpkin who cries?
Where is an orange pumpkin who's angry?
Where is an orange pumpkin who's mad?
Where is an orange pumpkin who's noisy?
And where is an orange pumpkin who's glad?



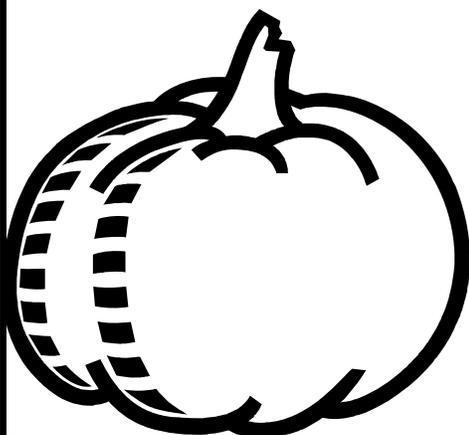
A Pumpkin

A pumpkin pie, when it looks nice,
Would make one long to have a slice;
But if the taste should prove so, too,
I fear one slice would scarcely do.
So to prevent my asking twice,
Pray, Mama, cut a good large slice.

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater

Peter, Peter, Pumpkin Eater
Had a wife, but couldn't keep her;
He put her in a pumpkin shell
And there he kept her very well.

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,
Had another, and didn't love her;
Peter learned to read and spell
And then he loved her very well.





Sing, Song, Sway

Five Little Pumpkins

Five Little Pumpkins sitting on a gate; (hold up five fingers and bend them down)
The first one said, "My, it's getting late" (hold one at a time as verse progresses)
The second one said, "There is frost in the air."
The third one said, "But we don't care."
The fourth one said, "Let's run, run, run."
The fifth one said, "It's fall fun."
"WOOOOOOOO" went the wind, (sway hand through the air)
And out went the lights (loud clap)
These five little pumpkins ran fast out of sight. (place hands behind back)

Pumpkin Music

Round is my head, (form circle with 2 hands)
Bright are my eyes, (circle eyes with hands)
Pie shaped my nose, (form a pie cut shape with hands)
And a mouth oversize. (make a half moon shape with right hand)
Upon the fence post I can be seen
Smiling at children (circle face with hands and smile)
Looking at me.



The Pumpkin Song

Sung to: "In and Out the Window"

Go 'round and 'round the pumpkin.
Go 'round and 'round the pumpkin.
Go 'round and 'round the pumpkin.
To find the way inside!



Sing, Song, Sway

Do You Know What a Pumpkin Is?

Sung to: "Do You Know the Muffin Man?"

Do you know what a pumpkin is?

A pumpkin is, a pumpkin is,

Do you know what a pumpkin is?

It's a vegetable.

Do you know where a pumpkin grows?

A pumpkin grows, a pumpkin grows,

Do you know where a pumpkin grows?

It grows on a vine.

Do you know what color a pumpkin is?

A pumpkin is, a pumpkin is,

Do you know what color a pumpkin is?

A pumpkin is orange.

Do you know what shape a pumpkin is?

A pumpkin is, a pumpkin is,

Do you know what shape a pumpkin is?

They grow in many shapes.

Do you know what a pumpkin is?

A pumpkin is, a pumpkin is,

Do you know what a pumpkin is?

Three Little Pumpkins

Sung to: "Three Blind Mice"

Three little pumpkins

Three little pumpkins

Growing on a vine

In a garden of mine.

They lay each day in the sun

And grow much bigger everyday

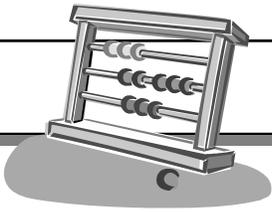
Someday I'll pick them off the vine

And make a pie

For a very special day

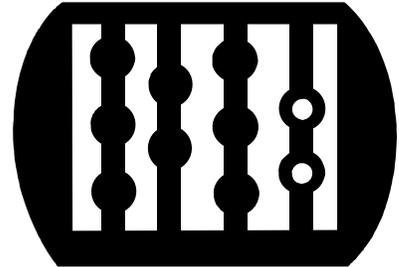
I would like to say.





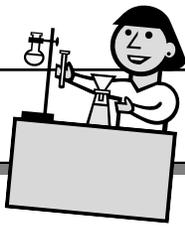
Math and Manipulatives

- ◆ Let each child cut off a length of yarn that he or she thinks will fit around the pumpkin. Have the child try wrapping the yarn piece around the pumpkin to see how well it fits. Measure and cut off a piece of yarn that fits around the pumpkin exactly. Let each child compare his or her yarn piece to the one that fits. Ask each child: "Is your yarn piece shorter or longer?"
- ◆ Let the children make orange and red play dough and mix together. Have plastic lids for cutting pumpkin shapes. Use corn kernels for eyes and features.
- ◆ Ask your children to examine your classroom pumpkin thoroughly and then to describe this member of the gourd family in detail such as: It is perfectly round or irregular in shape? Does it have interesting markings? Have your children determine at least the height, weight, and girth of the pumpkin. Have the class as a group come up with the various ways a pumpkin can be measured.
- ◆ Ask the children to estimate the number of seeds in your pumpkin. Record their guesses on a chart. Ask the children if all pumpkins have the same number of seeds inside? Can you determine the number of seeds by the girth or weight?



Block Center

- ◆ Add small pumpkins, wagons and tractors to move pumpkins from pumpkin patch to market.
- ◆ Place pumpkins and carriage in the area for role playing Cinderella.

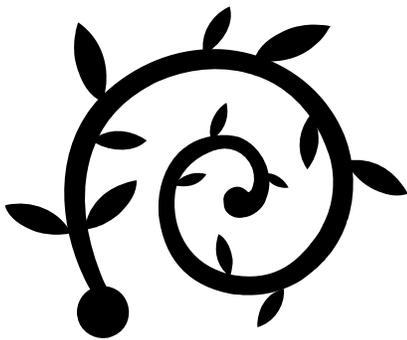


Science

Children can fill a jar with cotton and place seeds between the cotton and the glass. Wet the cotton and keep it damp. After several days, encourage children to tell what they see: pumpkin shoots growing "up" and roots growing "down."

Pumpkin Growth

On six large index cards draw pictures illustrating the growth stages of a pumpkin plant. Include pictures of a seed, a vine with leaves, a vine with buds, a vine with yellow blossoms, a vine with small green pumpkins, a vine with large orange pumpkins. Mix up the cards and let the children take turns putting them in order.



Sung to: "London Bridge"

Do you know how pumpkins grow,
Pumpkins grow, pumpkins grow,
Do you know how pumpkins grow
In my garden?

First, I'll plant a pumpkin seed
Pumpkin seed, pumpkin seed

First, I'll plant a pumpkin seed
In my garden.

- ◆ Have children dry pumpkin seeds and use them for making sets, counting, comparing and patterning.
- ◆ Child can graph different seeds. Use all the small seeds and the large seeds.



Dramatic Play



Set up a roadside stand for selling pumpkins and other fall decorations such as cornstalks, hay, etc. Have cash register, money, farmer clothes, and sign "Pumpkins for Sale."

Let the dramatic play area become a pie shop with pumpkin bread/pies/cookies.

Transform this area into Cinderella's house/the ballroom with long dresses/jewels/shoes and male dress-up clothes.



Sand and Water

Put pumpkin seeds in sand.

Have the children pick up seeds with a detergent scoop. Let the children paint their seeds and pretend to grow pumpkins.

Have tractors and barn to set up pumpkin patch/farm.

Cover an area of the floor with old bath towels or an old vinyl tablecloth. Fill a dish tub with a small amount of warm soapy water and place it on a towel. Add small cloths, sponges, and/or scrub brushes. Provide various sizes of pumpkins for the children to wash, preferably ones that have some mud or dirt on them. When finished, let the children dry the pumpkins with a cloth.



Visit professionalregistry.astate.edu to check out the available trainings offered by ASU Childhood Services across the state!

Outdoor Learning/Gross Motor/Movement

- ◆ Play a pumpkin toss game. Toss bean bags or small balls into plastic pumpkins.
- ◆ Select 2 or 3 children to be Farmers. Have your remaining children join hands to form a long, winding Pumpkin Vine. Ask every second or third child on the Vine to become a Pumpkin. Have the Pumpkins crouch down and hug their knees. At your signal, have the Farmers "pull" the pumpkins off the Vine by gently rolling them over onto their sides. Then have the Pumpkins roll away. Repeat until every child has had a turn being a Pumpkin and a Farmer.
- ◆ Select one child to be Fairy Godmother. Have the rest of the children be Mice. Ask Fairy Godmother to leave the room while the mice scurry around to find places to hide in the room. Then have the Fairy Godmother come back into the room and try to find the Mice. As each Mouse is found, have him or her join the search for the remaining Mice. When all of the Mice have been found, select a new Fairy Godmother and begin the game again.
- ◆ Have an alarm clock set for 12:00. When the alarm goes off, the children must scamper back to Cinderella's house.



Pumpkins in a Row

Make 4"X11" strips of green paper. Using a dark marker, draw 4 round pumpkins, ranging from small to large on each strip. Or, you can draw the pumpkins on strips of orange posterboard or oilcloth instead of paper. Give each child a strip with a large ball of soft dough. Have the children make soft dough "pumpkins," trying to match them to the sizes of the circles on the strips. Set each "pumpkin" on the corresponding circle.

Outdoor Learning/Gross Motor/Movement

Pass the Pumpkin

Have the children stand, sit, or kneel in a circle, with every other child facing out. Give one child the pumpkin. When everyone starts singing PASS THE PUMPKIN, have the children begin to pass the pumpkin to each other while twisting at their waists. Whoever is holding the pumpkin when you sing the last line, should lay it down in front of them. When you start singing again, the child should pick up the pumpkin and begin passing.

PASS THE PUMPKIN

Sung to: Row, Row, Row
Your Boat

Pass, pass, pass the pumpkin
Pass it round and round .

Passing, Passing, passing,
passing

Lay it on the ground.

Pumpkin Roll

Have one child lie down at one end of the mat with his legs together and his arms extended above his head. Put a pumpkin in his hands. Encourage him to maintain this position while he rolls down the mat. As he rolls have all the other players clap and cheer for him. When he's finished, give him a "Hi-5" for great effort.

Pumpkin Planting

Give the children balls of clay. Show them how to roll their clay into long hot dog shapes, thus making "rows for planting." Have the children each take a few pumpkin seeds and plant them, one at a time, by pushing each seed into the clay. Encourage the children to start planting on the left side of the row and push each seed into the "soil" as deeply as possible. If a child needs more seeds, let them take the seeds from the margarine tub. Set the "rows of seeds" in a sunny window.



Books Worth Reading

Books	Author
Too Many Pumpkins	Linda White and Megan Lloyd
The Bear Detectives: The Case of The Missing Pumpkin	Stan and Jan Berenstain
Pumpkin Pumpkin	Jeanne Titherington
The Great Pumpkin Switch	Megan McDonald and Ted Lewin
Pooh's Pumpkin School Market Edition	Isabel Gaines
Five Little Pumpkins	Public Domain and Dan Yaccarino
My Happy Pumpkin: God's Love Shining Through Me	Crystal Bowman
The Little Pumpkin Book	Katy Bratun
From Seed to Pumpkin	Jan Kottke
Pumpkin Soup	Helen Cooper



Ideas for Field Trips/Resource People

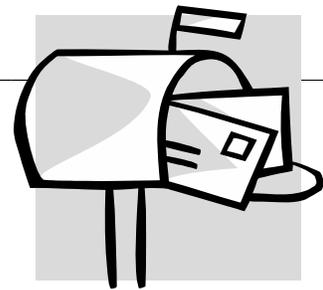
- ♦ Ask a farmer to speak to class about harvest time.
- ♦ Visit a farm at harvest time. Let children explore the crops, the equipment used at harvest time, and meet the workers on the farm.
- ♦ Take the children to a Produce Stand or Farmer's Roadside Stand or a Farmer's Market.
- ♦ Have someone from the produce area of the supermarket talk to the children about how to organize, things are kept fresh and attractive.
- ♦ Take a trip to a clothing store and have the clerk share with the children their lines of fall clothing.
- ♦ If there is an apple tree or apple orchard nearby, plan a trip to visit.
- ♦ Take a trip to the store to buy several pumpkins-one pumpkin per five children. Encourage children to select their favorite one, noting color, weight, shape, flaws, size, and price. Each group of five might choose their own and give necessary coins to cashier. This will give all the children the opportunity to participate in the total experience. If you can walk to the store, take a wagon to carry the pumpkins back to the center.



Suggestions? Ideas? Questions?

Feel free to send us your feedback!

Email: kmurphy@astate.edu



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Child Care Connections

DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
Special Nutrition Food Program

Family Child Care Provider Training

Through June 30, 2008

Family Child Care Provider Training (FCCP) is an eight-hour training that is developed specifically for new Family Child Care Providers. This course is devised to include six class hours and two out of class hours to be completed at home by providers. Newly licensed caregivers shall attend FCCP Training within the first six months of being licensed. Existing caregivers may attend this training also.

Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Family Home (301.12)

Family Child Care Provider Orientation is also one of the trainings required to be eligible for CDA Scholarships.

Region	Date	Location	Time	Call to Register
Northwest Fayetteville and Fort Smith	10/13/2007 TBA Debbie Wright	Washington County Extension Office	8:30-3:30	479-521-7449 800-445-3326 NW Arkansas Family Child Care Association
Southwest Hope	TBA Marietta Baltz	TBA	TBA	479-575-4289 800-632-8754 UA Early Care and
Southwest Pine Bluff	12/8/2007 4/5/2008	Child Care LINKS 1203 West Pullen Street	9:00-4:00	870-536-0520 Child Care LINKS
Central Little Rock	11/3/2007 Spring (TBA)	Child Care Connections, Inc. 8023 Interstate 30 Little Rock	9:00-4:00	866-374-0330 Child Care Connections (Ask for Kirk)
Northeast Batesville and Jonesboro	11/3/2007	White River Planning and Development Resource 1652 White Drive Batesville, AR	9:00-4:00	800-737-2237 870-793-5233 Children of North
	4/26/2008	Crowley's Ridge Planning and Development Council 213 North Fisher Jonesboro, AR	9:00-4:00	800-753-5827 870-931-6331 Crowley's Ridge Planning and Development Council, Resource and



Training Announcement

Early Care and Education DIRECT Training ONLINE!!!

This 30-hour training, which meets the prerequisite requirement for the CDA Scholarship, is available online! It may be taken by those new to the child care field as an introduction, or as a refresher course for those who have been working in the field for some time. The six modules consist of these topics: **Health and Safety, Child Development, Learning Environment, Language and Literacy, Curriculum Development, and Professionalism**. Everything needed to complete the training is provided through ASU's online learning tool, "Blackboard," at www.astate.edu, for no additional cost. Contact Dr. Beverly Gilbert, at bboals@astate.edu, to enroll in the course!

Arkansas Early Childhood Mentor Endorsement DIRECT



To enroll in these 2 classes, you must have a minimum of a CDA or equivalent training, and you must have a minimum of 2 years experience working directly with children in an early childhood setting. For enrollment information, contact Diana Courson, dianacourson@sbcglobal.net

Essentials of Mentoring (24 clock hours)

Begins October 13, 2007 and concludes November 30, 2007

This course prepares directors, trainers, consultants, and lead teachers to serve as mentors. Participants will attend two Saturday seminars in Little Rock and complete online assignments. Topics addressed will include adult development, skills for effective mentoring, and building the mentoring relationship.