

Pretty Pumpkins

Babies and Toddlers

Feel free to do this lesson with two children at a time while others play. I recommend using a Centers approach in the classroom. (See preschool lesson).

Objectives

Children will:

- Explore pumpkins.
- Act out a rhyme.
- Identify their favorite harvest fruits and vegetables.

Materials

Mascot (a puppet or stuffed animal of your choice) with a large real pumpkin; five real little pumpkins in a basket; “Five Little Pumpkins” rhyme; harvest sign (p 5); basket of fabric fruits and vegetables; plastic tablecloth; large knife; handouts (p 6); pumpkin stickers; crayons. (Make sure to use a toilet paper tube to check for items that are choking hazards: If it fits in it, it isn’t safe. Carefully supervise small children with the parts of the pumpkin).

Ahead of time, cut open the pumpkin with the knife. Then, put the top back on.

Introduction

- **Sing** the [Welcome Song](#).
- **Hold up** the mascot with the large pumpkin. Count it!
- **Invite** the children to touch it.
- **Show** the children the five little pumpkins. Count them! (Put them back in the basket).
- **Place** the large pumpkin on the plastic tablecloth.

Lesson

Main Point: Pumpkins have several parts; they and other items are harvested in fall.

- **Explore** the contents of the pumpkin: shell, pulp, seeds, flesh
- **Say:** “We pick or harvest pumpkins in the fall!”
- **Show** them the word.
- **Hold up** the basket of fabric fruits and vegetables.
- **Say:** “These are other foods that are picked or harvested. (Place the basket in Dramatic Play for the children to explore later).

Close/Music and Movement

- **Say:** "I have a poem about pumpkins.
- **Hold up** five fingers. (Children can copy hand-motions.)
- **Teach** the children the following rhyme:

Five little pumpkins sitting on a fence.

(Hold five fingers up. Make a fence with your other hand).

The first one said, "This doesn't make sense!"

(Hold up thumb)

The second one said, "It's cold outside" .

(Hold up second finger)

The third one said, "It's time to go inside."

(Hold up third finger)

The fourth one said, "Let's all roll around."

(Hold up fourth finger)

The fifth one said, "Let's get down on the ground,"

(Hold up fifth finger)

So five little pumpkins rolled through the door.

(Roll hand)

Five little pumpkins were cold no more!

(Make an x with your finger)

-adapted by Zoe E. Jones

Center Time

Children may play in centers. Someone should supervise both Dramatic Play and Art & Writing. (For an explanation of Centers, see the free lesson, "Lovely Leaves").

Dramatic Play: Make a note of which fabric fruits and vegetables the children play with.

Art & Writing Center: Provide copies of the "Five Little Pumpkins" handout and pumpkin stickers. Children can color in the fence and stick five stickers on it. You can write their names on them and trace the numeral 5.

Preschool and Above

Objectives

Children will:

- Explore pumpkins and identify numerical amounts.
- Label the parts of a pumpkin.
- Act out a rhyme.
- Identify their favorite harvest fruits and vegetables.

Materials

Mascot with a large real pumpkin; five real little pumpkins in a basket; a basket of fabric fruits and vegetables; “Five Little Pumpkins” rhyme; words: pulp, seeds, shell, flesh, harvest (p 5); plastic tablecloth; large knife; numerals: 1 – 5; handouts (p 6); pumpkin stickers; crayons

Ahead of time, cut open the pumpkin with the knife. Then put the top back on.

Introduction

- Sing the [Welcome Song](#).
- **Hold up** the mascot with the large pumpkin. Count it!
- **Show** numeral one.
- **Invite** the children to touch the pumpkin.
- **Show** the children the five little pumpkins.
- **Count** two pumpkins, hold up numeral.
- **Count** three, hold up numeral.
- **Count** four, hold up numeral.
- **Count** five, hold up numeral. Put pumpkins and numerals back in the basket. Place in Manipulatives)
- **Place** the large pumpkin on the plastic tablecloth.

Lesson

Main Point: Pumpkins have several parts; they and other items are harvested in fall.

- **Explore** the contents of the pumpkin: shell, pulp, seeds, flesh.
- **Show** words; children can place the words beside the parts.
- **Say:** “We pick or harvest pumpkins in the fall!”
- **Show** them the word.
- **Hold up** the basket of fabric fruits and vegetables.
- **Say:** “These are other foods that are picked or harvested. (Place the basket in Dramatic Play for the children to explore later).

Closure/Music and Movement

- **Say:** "I have a poem about pumpkins."
- **Hold up** five fingers. (Children can copy hand-motions).
- **Teach** the children the following rhyme:

Five little pumpkins sitting on a fence.
(Hold five fingers up. Make a fence with your other hand)
The first one said, "This doesn't make sense!"
(Hold up thumb)
The second one said, "It's cold outside" .
(Hold up second finger)
The third one said, "It's time to go inside."
(Hold up third finger)
The fourth one said, "Let's all roll around."
(Hold up fourth finger)
The fifth one said, "Let's get down on the ground,"
(Hold up fifth finger)
So five little pumpkins rolled through the door.
(Roll hand)
Five little pumpkins were cold no more!
(Make an x with your finger)

-adapted by Zoe E. Jones

Center Time

Children may play in centers. Someone should supervise both Manipulatives and Art & Writing. Also, take notes on which fruits and vegetables the children play with in Dramatic Play. (For an explanation of Centers, see the free lesson, "Lovely Leaves")

Manipulatives: Work with one or two children at a time. Model how to trace the numerals 1 through 5. Then, invite the children to trace each numeral and place the correct number of pumpkins beside it.

Art and Writing Center: Provide copies of the "Five Little Pumpkins" handout and pumpkin stickers. Children can color in the fence and stick five stickers on it. They can trace the numeral 5 using a crayon or large pencil.

Cut word cards apart to use with lessons:

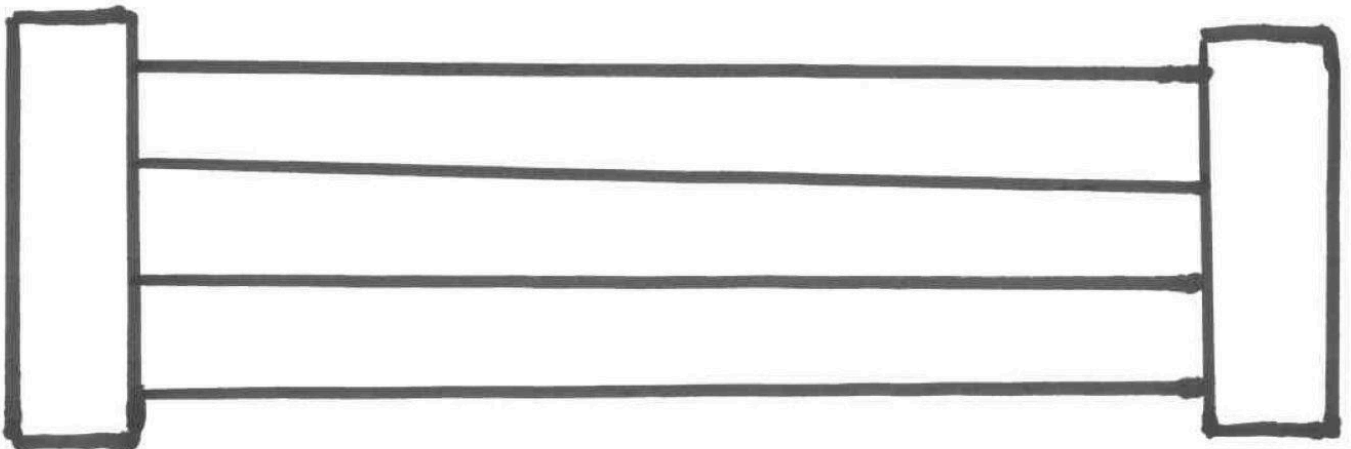
Harvest	Shell
Pulp	Flesh
Seeds	stem

Photo



5

Five little pumpkins sitting on a fence.
The first one said, " This doesn't make sense!"
The second one said, "It's cold outside" .
The third one said, "It's time to go inside."
The fourth one said, " Let's all roll around."
The fifth one said, "Let's get down on the ground,"
So five little pumpkins rolled through the door.
Five little pumpkins were cold no more!



QR Codes for Links



Welcome Song

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=si-k1sqvbO0>