

Theme - Fall, Pumpkins and Halloween

Sub-Theme: Fall

Read Aloud

- Marmalade's yellow leaf by Cindy Wheeler
- Fall is not easy by Marty Kelley
- How do you know it's fall? By Allan Fowler
- Red leaf, yellow leaf by Lois Ehlert

Felt Board

The enormous turnip

Circle Time

Give each child a real maple leaf. (This works best if you flatten them overnight in a large book.) With their leaves have the children act out the following:

Little leaves fall gently down
Red and yellow, orange and brown
Whirling, whirling round and round
Quietly without a sound.

If I were a leaf, a leaf, a leaf (Wave leaf above head)
If I were a leaf, I'd fall to the ground like this.
..... float to the ground like this.
..... swirl to the ground like this.

This is the way we rake the leaves, rake the leaves, rake the leaves.
This is the way we rake the leaves, early in the morning.
This is the way we jump in the leaves, jump in the leaves, jump in the leaves.
This is the way we jump in the leaves, early in the morning. (Dig the garden, plant spring bulbs, etc.)

Leaves, leaves (Arms wave)
Big and small (Hands and arms far apart - Hands close)
See if we can rake them all (Raking motion)

Craft

- Cut out little tissue paper squares of fall colours - red, orange, yellow, brown and green. Then have the children paste them on the tree that you have laminated. When hung up in a window the colours are illuminated. (see attached sheet)

Other Books

- Autumn leaves by Ken Robbins
- Here comes spring by Mary Murphy
- Let's go visiting by Sue Williams
- One fall day by Molly Bang

Sub-Theme: Pumpkins

Read Aloud

- Pumpkin, pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington

Cut and Tell Story

- The little orange house by Jean Stangl

Fingerplays

To scare someone on Halloween
I'll show you what to do.
You hide behind a pumpkin (Hide behind your hands)
And then shout BOO! (Part hands & shout BOO!)

A pumpkin is big. (Hands over head)
A pumpkin is round. (Join hands over head)
A pumpkin has a great big smile. (Smile)
But he doesn't make a sound. (Shake head)

Felt Board

Three little pumpkins
Sitting on a wall.
A witch came riding by
Ha, ha, ha - I'll take you all
To make a pumpkin pie!

This pumpkin is happy.
This pumpkin is sad.
This pumpkin is sleepy.
This pumpkin is mad.

Read Aloud

- Five little pumpkins by Dan Yaccarino

Felt Board

- plus five pumpkin finger puppets (from Smilemakers)

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate,
The first one said "I'm late, I'm late."
The second one said "Let's have some fun."
The third one said "Let's run, let's run."
The fourth one said "Let's dance, let's prance."
The fifth one said "Now's our chance."
When OH (blow) went the wind. (Blow)
And out went the lights. (Clap)
And five little pumpkins ran away in the night. (Hand runs behind back)

Circle Time

Game similar to “Doggie, doggie who has your bone”. (see dogs theme page)
I have a stuffed pumpkin. The children sit in a circle and one child is chosen to sit in the middle and hide their eyes. The stuffed pumpkin is put behind him/her. Someone is chosen to take the pumpkin and then everyone puts their hands behind their backs. We then say the following verse:

Farmer, farmer
Who stole the pumpkin from your patch?
Guess who? Was it you?
Maybe the monkey from the zoo?

Limit each child to three guesses.

Craft

- Decorate paper shopping bags to collect candy in for Halloween. Sponge paint them orange and cut out predrawn black bats, cats and witches to paste on the bags. (See attached sheet)

Halloween Party

Read Aloud (Have the children join in.)

- The old lady who was not afraid of anything by Linda Williams
- A creepy countdown by Charlotte A. Huck

Draw and Tell Story

- Trick or treat (for Halloween)

Read Aloud

- My first Halloween by Tomi de Paola
- Where the wild things are by Maurice Sendak

Felt Board (and Circle Time)

Reach for the stars (Reach with right hand)	I'm a little ghost
Reach for the moon (Reach with left hand)	Whoo, whoo, whoo.
Fly through the air	I've come to haunt
Like a witch on a broom.	You, you, you!
(Climb on broom and gallop around the room.)	(Take flannelboard ghost and swoop him at the children.)

Circle Games

Halloween variation of “The farmer in the dell”.

1. The witch on Halloween ...
2. The witch takes a ghost ...
3. The ghost takes a Jack-o'-lantern ...
4. The Jack-o'-lantern takes a cat ...
5. The cat takes a skeleton ...
6. The skeleton takes a bone ...
7. The bone stands alone ... (Everyone claps over the bone's head.)

Halloween Bingo

Assemble as many cards of 16 Halloween shapes as you need; laminate them if you can. I have 15 cards and the caller can cut hers out to call out to the children. (See attached photocopies.)

Bean Bag Throw

Toss bean bags through the eyes and mouth of a giant ghost made from cardboard.

Videos

- By the light of the Halloween moon by Caroline Stutson - Weston Woods - 6 minutes
- Miss Nelson is back by Harry Allard - Weston Woods - 13 minutes
- Where the wild things are by Maurice Sendak on The Maurice Sendak Library video - Children's Circle - 5 minutes

Other Books

- Boo to a goose by Mem Fox
- By the light of the Halloween moon by Caroline Stutson
- A dark, dark tale by Ruth Brown
- Froggy's Halloween by Jonathan London
- Funnybones by Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- Miss Nelson is back by Harry Allard
- Miss Nelson is missing by Harry Allard
- Scary, scary Halloween by Eve Bunting
- Sheep trick or treat by Nancy Shaw
- This is the pumpkin by Abby Levine
- Trick or treat, smell my feet by Dian DeGroat

