

# Table of Contents

- 01. Introduction and Overview
- 02. Learning Objectives
- 03. Teaching the Rhyme
- 04. Mathematics Activities
- **05. Literacy Activities**
- 06. Science and Social Studies Connections
- 07. Art and Creative Expression
- 08. Dramatic Play and Movement
- 09. Assessment Tools
- 10. Extension Activities
- 11. Home Connection Activities
- 12. Materials and Resources









# Five Little Pumpkins

**Five little pumpkins** sitting on a gate,

The first one said, "Oh my, it's getting late!"

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!"

Then WHOOSH went the wind, And OUT went the light, And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight!

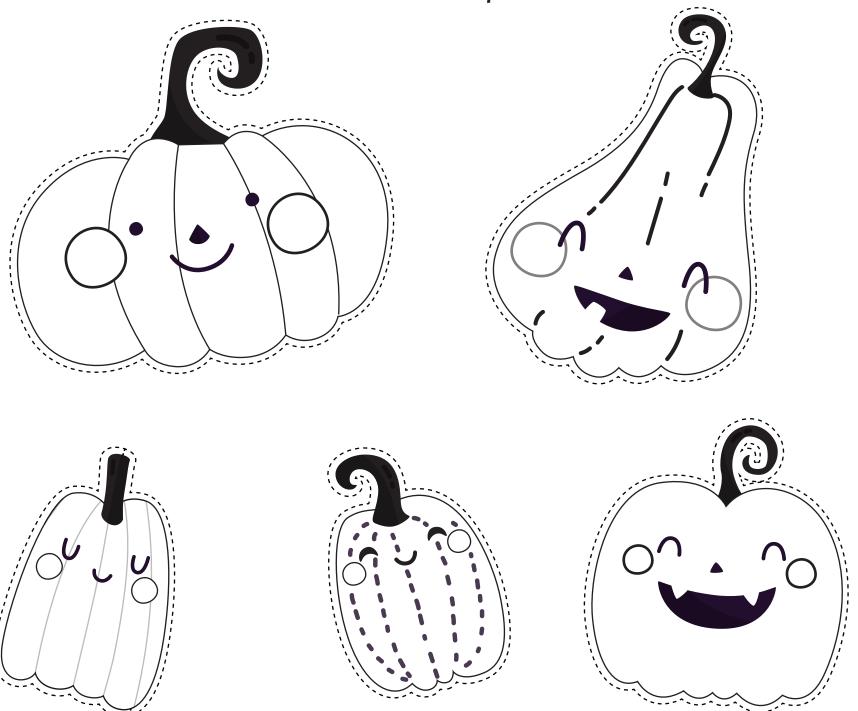
# Five Little Pumpkins

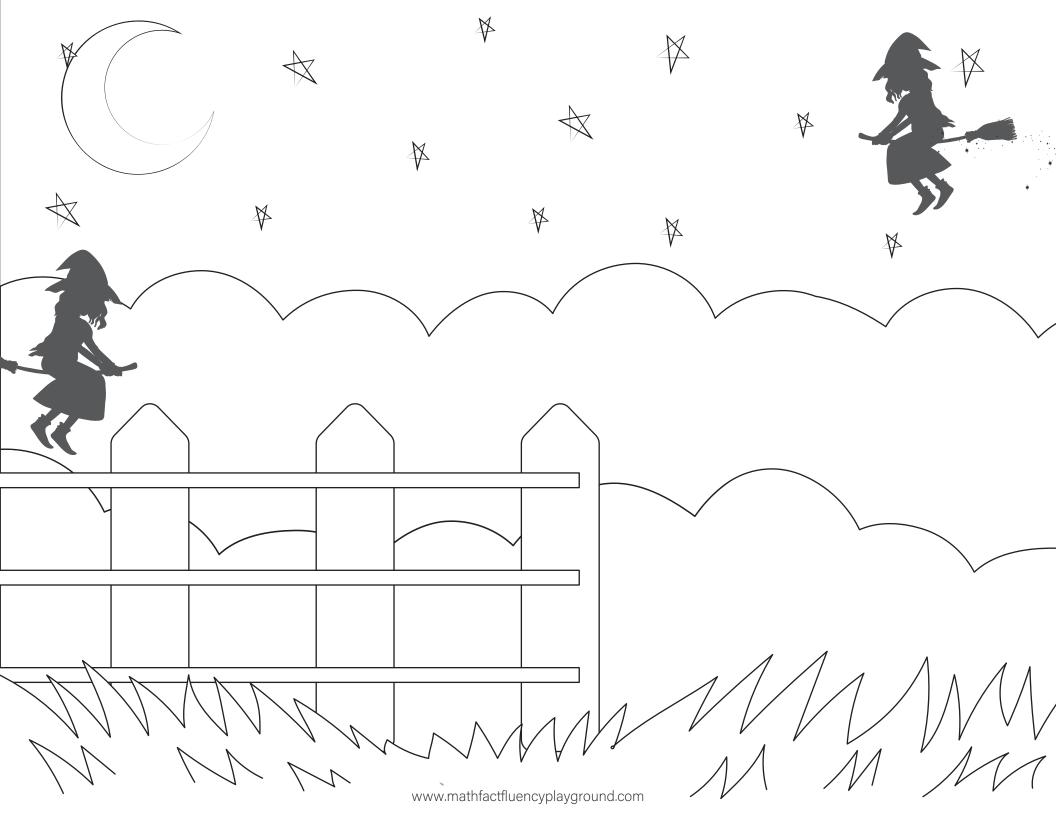


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# Five Little Pumpkins





# I.Introduction and Overview

Age Range: 3-7 years (PreK-2nd Grade)

**Duration:** 1-2 weeks of activities

Theme Integration: Fall, Halloween, Counting, Subtraction

The "Five Little Pumpkins" teaching packet provides educators with a comprehensive collection of cross-curricular activities centered around the beloved children's rhyme. This resource supports early learning in mathematics, literacy, science, and creative arts while celebrating autumn traditions.

#### **Mathematical Benefits:**

- Concrete introduction to subtraction concepts
- One-to-one correspondence practice
- Number recognition and counting skills
- Understanding of "less than" and "fewer"



#### **Literacy Benefits:**

- Rhyme and rhythm awareness
- Vocabulary development
- Sequence understanding
- Oral language development



# **Social-Emotional Benefits:**

- Group participation and cooperation
- Following multi-step directions
- Building confidence through familiar repetition
- Cultural tradition appreciation







# 2. Learning Objectives

## **Mathematics Objectives**

#### Students will be able to:

- Count from 1 to 5 accurately
- Demonstrate subtraction by removing objects one at a time
- Use number words (five, four, three, two, one, zero)
- Compare quantities using "more," "less," and "same"
- Recognize numerals 0-5
- Create number sentences for subtraction problems

#### Literacy Objectives

#### Students will be able to:

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- Recite the complete rhyme from memory
- Identify rhyming words within the verse
- Sequence story events in correct order
- Use descriptive vocabulary related to autumn and emotions
- Participate in shared reading experiences
- Create original text inspired by the rhyme structure



# Science Objectives

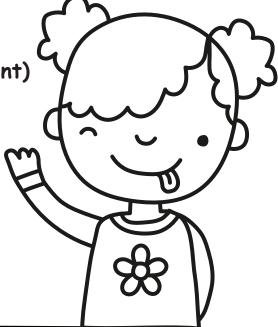
#### Students will be able to:

- · Describe characteristics of pumpkins and their life cycle
- · Identify autumn changes in nature
- Explore concepts of wind and weather
- · Investigate properties of light and darkness

## **Social Studies Objectives**

#### Students will be able to:

- Discuss Halloween and autumn traditions
- Compare family celebrations and customs
- Practice safety rules for Halloween
- Understand concepts of time (day/night, past/present)



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# 3. Teaching the Rhyme

#### Day 1: Introduction

- Present rhyme with visual aids
- Discuss unfamiliar vocabulary
- Practice verse in small chunks
- Act out basic movements

#### Day 2: Character Voices

- Assign different voices to each pumpkin
- Practice emotional expression
- Add simple hand gestures
- Begin memorization

#### Day 3: Full Performance

- Recite complete rhyme with actions
- Encourage individual performances
- Record children reciting for families
- Introduce mathematical connections

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# 4. Mathematics Activities

# Activity 1: Pumpkin Subtraction Stories

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration:** 20-30 minutes

Materials: 5 orange manipulatives per child, recording sheets

#### Procedure:

1. Give each child 5 pumpkin counters

2. Recite rhyme while physically removing one pumpkin at each verse

3. Have children count remaining pumpkins after each removal

4. Record subtraction number sentences: 5-1=4, 4-1=3, etc.

5. Discuss what "rolled out of sight" means mathematically

#### Differentiation:

Support: Use only 3 pumpkins for struggling learners

• Challenge: Create story problems with different starting numbers

• ELL Support: Provide number cards with visual representations

**Assessment:** Observe students' ability to count accurately and understand one-less relationships





# Activity 2: Pumpkin Number Line

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration:** 25 minutes

Materials: Large floor number line (0-10), pumpkin cutouts

#### Procedure:

- 1. Place 5 pumpkin cutouts on numbers 1-5 on floor number line
- 2. Recite rhyme while moving pumpkins off the number line
- 3. Discuss how numbers get smaller as pumpkins disappear
- 4. Have children predict where pumpkins would land for different starting numbers
- 5. Practice jumping backwards on number line to show subtraction

**Extension:** Create individual number lines for desk work with movable pumpkin pieces



# Activity 3: Ten Frame Pumpkins

Grade Level: PreK-1

**Duration:** 15-20 minutes

Materials: Ten frames, orange dot stickers or pumpkin stamps

#### Procedure:

Start with 5 dots in ten frame to represent 5 pumpkins

Remove one dot while reciting each verse

Discuss how many empty spaces remain

Compare different arrangements of 5 objects in ten frame

Practice making other numbers (1-10) with pumpkin dots

**Learning Goals:** Visual number representation, part-whole relationships, spatial reasoning

# Activity 4: Pumpkin Pattern Practice

Grade Level: PreK-K **Duration:** 15 minutes

Materials: Orange and green pumpkin cutouts

#### Procedure:

Create AB patterns with orange and green pumpkins

Have children continue and describe patterns

Use patterns to practice counting by 2s Create movement patterns: clap-stomp, clap-stomp

Connect to rhyme rhythm and beat



# Activity 5: Graphing Our Favorite Pumpkins

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration:** 30 minutes

Materials: Graph paper, pumpkin stickers, markers

#### Procedure:

1. Survey class about favorite pumpkin activities (carving, eating, decorating)

2. Create class graph showing responses

3. Count and compare results

4. Practice asking and answering questions about data

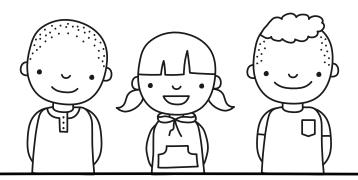
5. Discuss which category has more/fewer responses

#### **Discussion Questions:**

"How many children chose carving?"

"Which activity was most popular?"

"How many more children chose decorating than eating?"



# 5. Literacy Activities

# Activity 1: Rhyming Pumpkin Hunt

Grade Level: PreK-1

**Duration:** 20 minutes

Materials: Picture cards, pumpkin basket

#### Procedure:

- 1. Hide picture cards around classroom (gate/late, air/care, etc.)
- 2. Children find cards and identify rhyming pairs
- 3. Sort pictures by rhyming families
- 4. Create new rhyming words for each family
- 5. Act out rhyming words for charades



Vocabulary Focus: gate, late, plate, air, care, bear, fun, run, sun

# Activity 2: Pumpkin Character Analysis

Grade Level: 1-2

**Duration**: 25 minutes

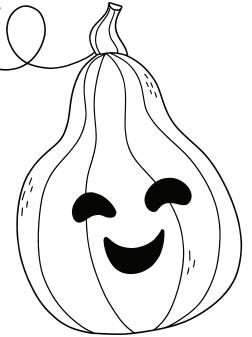
Materials: Character worksheet, crayons

#### Procedure:

- 1. Discuss what each pumpkin says in the rhyme
- 2. Analyze each pumpkin's personality traits
- 3. Draw pictures showing each pumpkin's emotions
- 4. Write descriptive words for each character
- 5. Vote on which pumpkin they're most like and explain why

#### Character Descriptions:

- First Pumpkin: Worried, responsible, time-conscious
- Second Pumpkin: Observant, cautious, aware
- Third Pumpkin: Brave, confident, fearless
- Fourth Pumpkin: Energetic, active, ready for adventure
- Fifth Pumpkin: Playful, excited, fun-loving



# Activity 3: Sequence Story Cards

Grade Level: PreK-1

Duration: 15 minutes

Materials: Pre-made sequence cards showing rhyme events

#### Procedure:

1. Mix up story sequence cards

2. Have children work in pairs to put events in order

3. Retell story using correctly sequenced cards

4. Discuss what happens first, next, last

5. Act out sequence with whole body movements

#### Sequence Events:

1. Five pumpkins sitting on gate

- 2. First pumpkin speaks about time
- 3. Second pumpkin notices witches
- 4. Third pumpkin shows bravery
- 5. Fourth pumpkin wants to run
- 6. Fifth pumpkin expresses excitement
- 7. Wind blows (WHOOSH!)
- 8. Light goes out
- 9. Pumpkins roll away



# Activity 4: Create New Pumpkin Adventures

Grade Level: 1-2

**Duration:** 30 minutes

Materials: Writing paper, illustration materials

#### Procedure:

1. Brainstorm what might happen to pumpkins after they roll away

2. Create new adventures using same rhyme structure

- 3. Illustrate original stories
- 4. Share stories with class
- 5. Compile into class book

Example New Adventure: "Five little pumpkins rolled down the hill, The first one said, 'This gives me a thrill!'..."







# Activity 5: Pumpkin Vocabulary Development

Grade Level: PreK-2

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: Vocabulary cards, pumpkin props

#### Procedure:

1. Introduce autumn/Halloween vocabulary through rhyme

2. Act out vocabulary words with movements

3. Sort words by categories (emotions, actions, objects)

4. Use new words in original sentences

5. Create vocabulary picture dictionary

#### Key Vocabulary:

Emotions: excited, worried, brave, scared, happy

• Actions: sitting, rolling, running, whooshing

Objects: gate, pumpkins, witches, wind, light,

• Time: late, night, evening, dark

Descriptive: little, five, orange, round



# 6. Science and Social Studies Connections

# Activity 1: Pumpkin Life Cycle Investigation

Grade Level: K-2

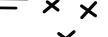
**Duration:** 45 minutes over multiple days

Materials: Real pumpkin, magnifying glasses, life cycle diagram

#### Procedure:

- 1. Examine real pumpkin inside and outside
- 2. Count and observe seeds
- 3. Discuss how pumpkins grow from seeds
- 4. Sequence life cycle stages
- 5. Plant pumpkin seeds and observe growth

Science Concepts: Plant life cycles, seeds, growth, seasons



# Activity 2: Wind and Weather Exploration

Grade Level: PreK-1 Duration: 20 minutes

Materials: Pinwheels, scarves, feathers, hair dryer (teacher use only)

#### Procedure:

1. Discuss the wind in the rhyme that blows pumpkins away

2. Experiment with creating wind using various tools

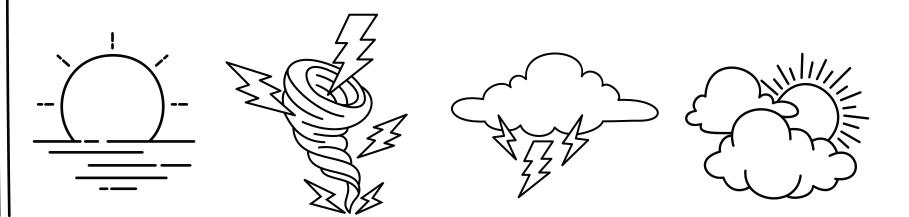
3. Observe how different objects move in wind

4. Predict which objects will blow away easily

5. Connect to autumn weather patterns



Science Concepts: Weather, force and motion, prediction



# Activity 3: Light and Dark Investigation

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration**: 25 minutes

Materials: Flashlights, various light sources, dark room setup

#### Procedure:

Discuss "OUT went the light" from rhyme

Explore different sources of light
Experiment with shadows using flashlights
Compare brightness of different light sources
Discuss safety with light and dark

Science Concepts: Light sources, shadows, safety, day/night

## Activity 4: Halloween Traditions Around the World

Grade Level: 1-2

**Duration:** 30 minutes

Materials: World map, cultural photos, books about Halloween traditions

#### Procedure:

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Locate students' family origins on world map Research Halloween traditions from different countries

Compare similarities and differences

Share family Halloween traditions Create class book of diverse celebrations

Social Studies Concepts: Cultural diversity, traditions, geography, family heritage,

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# Activity 5: Pumpkin Farm to Table

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration:** 40 minutes

Materials: Pictures of pumpkin farms, pumpkin foods to taste

#### Procedure:

Trace journey of pumpkins from farm to store

2. Identify different uses for pumpkins (food, decoration, carving)

3. Taste various pumpkin foods (bread, seeds, pie)

4. Discuss healthy eating and seasonal foods

5. Interview farmer or visit pumpkin patch if possible

Social Studies Concepts: Community helpers, agriculture, economics, nutrition



# 7. Art and Creative Expression

# Activity 1: Mixed Media Pumpkin Collages

Grade Level: PreK-2

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials: Orange tissue paper, construction paper, glue, scissors, markers

#### Procedure:

1. Create pumpkin shapes using torn tissue paper

2. Add details with markers and paper scraps

- 3. Create background scenes showing gate and autumn setting
- 4. Display with written versions of rhyme
- 5. Add dimensional elements like real twigs for fence



Art Skills: Tearing, gluing, layering, composition

# Activity 2: Painted Pumpkin Emotions

Grade Level: K-2

**Duration:** 30 minutes

Materials: Orange paint, brushes, paper plates, black markers

#### Procedure:

Paint pumpkin shapes using orange paint

When dry, add facial expressions showing different emotions Label each pumpkin with emotion words Discuss how colors can show feelings

Create gallery walk to observe different interpretations

Art Skills: Painting techniques, facial expressions, color mixing

# Activity 3: 3D Pumpkin Sculptures

Grade Level: 1-2

**Duration:** 60 minutes over 2 days

Materials: Clay or playdough, orange paint, crafting tools

#### Procedure:

Sculpt pumpkin shapes from clay

- Add texture using various tools'
  Paint when dry and add details
  Create miniature scenes with gate and multiple pumpkins
- Use for retelling rhyme story

Art Skills: 3D construction, texture, sculpture techniques



# Activity 4: Pumpkin Print Making

Grade Level: PreK-1 **Duration:** 25 minutes

Materials: Small real pumpkins, orange and black paint, paper

#### Procedure:

Cut small pumpkins in half (teacher task)

Use pumpkin halves as stamps with paint

Create patterns and pictures using prints Add details with brushes or fingers

Discuss how artists use natural objects for art



Art Skills: Printmaking, pattern creation, natural art materials

## Activity 5: Dramatic Pumpkin Masks

Grade Level: PreK-2 **Duration:** 40 minutes

Materials: Paper plates, orange paint, elastic string, decorative materials

#### Procedure:

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Paint paper plates orange for pumpkin base Cut eye holes and add facial features Attach elastic string for wearing Decorate with additional materials

Use masks for dramatic play and rhyme performance

Art Skills: Mask making, face painting, dramatic arts

# 8.Dramatic Play and Movement

# Activity 1: Pumpkin Patch Dramatic Play Center

Grade Level: PreK-1

**Duration:** Ongoing center activity

Materials: Orange balls, baskets, cash register, aprons, signs

#### Setup:

- 1. Create pumpkin patch corner with orange balls as pumpkins
- 2. Add baskets for "picking" pumpkins
- 3. Include cash register for purchasing
- 4. Provide farmer costumes and customer props
- 5. Post signs with pumpkin prices and farm rules

Learning Goals: Social skills, math concepts, role playing, economic understanding

# Activity 2: Pumpkin Rolling Races

Grade Level: PreK-2 **Duration:** 20 minutes

Materials: Large orange balls, cones for course markers

#### Procedure:

Set up obstacle course with cones

Have children roll "pumpkins" through course

Practice different ways of moving (fast, slow, zigzag)
Time races and compare results

Connect to pumpkin's rolling away in rhyme

Movement Skills: Gross motor coordination, spatial awareness, following directions

# Activity 3: Wind and Pumpkin Dance

Grade Level: PreK-1 **Duration:** 15 minutes

Materials: Scarves, autumn music

#### Procedure:

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Children start as still pumpkins sitting on gate When "wind" music starts, move scarves like wind

"Pumpkins" begin to rock and eventually roll away Vary wind intensity with different movements End with all pumpkins "rolled out of sight"

Movement Skills: Creative movement, listening skills, body awareness

# Activity 4: Five Little Pumpkins Reader's Theater

Grade Level: 1-2

**Duration:** 30 minutes preparation, 10 minutes performance

Materials: Simple costumes, props, script

#### Procedure:

Assign roles (5 pumpkins, narrator, wind, light)

Practice speaking parts with expression
 Add simple movements and gestures
 Perform for other classes or families

5. Record performance to watch and evaluate



**Drama Skills:** Speaking with expression, memorization, performance confidence

# Activity 5: Pumpkin Yoga and Mindfulness

Grade Level: PreK-2 **Duration:** 15 minutes

Materials: Yoga mats, calm music

#### Procedure:

Practice "pumpkin pose" (sitting cross-legged, round back)
Move through different pumpkin growth stages
Practice "wind breathing" (deep inhales and exhales)
End with "rolling away" relaxation

Discuss feelings of calm and peace

Wellness Skills: Body awareness, breathing techniques, relaxation





# **Assessment**

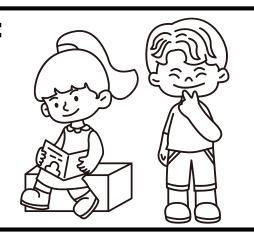
#### **Mathematics Skills:**

- Counts accurately from 1-5
- Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence
- Shows understanding of subtraction as "taking away"
- Recognizes numerals 0-5
- Uses comparative language (more, less, fewer)
- Creates simple number sentences



#### **Literacy Skills:**

- Recites rhyme with minimal prompting
- Identifies rhyming words
- Sequences events correctly
- Uses new vocabulary appropriately
- Participates in group discussions
- Shows print awareness



#### **Creative Expression:**

- Engages in dramatic play
- Uses art materials appropriately
- Expresses ideas through movement
- Shows creativity in problem-solving
- Participates in group performances





# Summative Assessment Options

#### **Portfolio Assessment:**

Math work samples showing number understanding
Art projects demonstrating creativity and skill development
Written work showing literacy growth
Photos of dramatic play and movement activities
Self-reflection drawings or dictated thoughts

#### **Performance Assessment:**

Individual recitation of complete rhyme
Demonstration of subtraction using manipulatives
Creative retelling with personal additions
Collaborative group project presentation

#### **Observation Rubric:**

Exceeds Expectations: Demonstrates mastery and helps others Meets Expectations: Shows understanding with minimal support Approaching Expectations: Shows partial understanding, needs guidance Beginning: Requires significant support and practice







# 10. Extension Activities

# Activity 1: Pumpkin Math Problem Solving

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Materials: Word problem cards, manipulatives



"Sarah carved 5 pumpkins. 2 pumpkins blew away in the wind. How many pumpkins does Sarah have left?"

"There were 8 pumpkins on the fence. Some rolled away. Now there are 3 left. How many rolled away?"



# Activity 2: Digital Storytelling

Grade Level: 1-2

Materials: Tablets or computers, simple recording apps

#### Students create digital versions of rhyme:

- Record themselves reciting rhyme
- Add sound effects for wind and rolling
- Create simple animations or slideshows
- Share with families via school communication system



# Activity 3: Pumpkin Science Experiments

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: Various pumpkin sizes, water table, measuring tools

Investigate pumpkin properties:

Do pumpkins float or sink?

Which pumpkins are heaviest?

How many seeds does each pumpkin contain?

What happens to pumpkins over time?

# Activity 4: Community Connections

Grade Level: PreK-2

Materials: Transportation, permission slips

Real-world learning experiences:

Visit local pumpkin patch

Interview farmers about growing pumpkins

Visit grocery store to see pumpkin products

Invite community members to share Halloween traditions

# Activity 5: Cross-Curricular Research Projects

Grade Level: 2nd Grade

Materials: Books, computers, poster board

Real-world learning experiences:

Different types of pumpkins around the world

History of Halloween and pumpkin traditions Nutritional benefits of pumpkins

How pumpkins are used in different cultures

# **II. Home Connection Activities**

# Take-Home Activity 1: Family Pumpkin Hunt

Materials: Scavenger hunt list, small prize

#### Send home list of pumpkin-related items to find:

- Something orange in your house
- A food made with pumpkins
- A book about fall or Halloween
- Something that makes wind
- Something that gives light

# Take-Home Activity 2: Family Recipe Collection

Materials: Recipe card template

#### Families share pumpkin recipes:

- Traditional family pumpkin dishes
- Simple recipes children can help make
- Stories about family cooking traditions
- Photos of cooking together

# Take-Home Activity 3: Rhyme Extension Challenge

Materials: Blank verse template Families create new verses:

- Use same rhythm and rhyme scheme
- Feature family members instead of pumpkins
- Share different seasonal themes
- Practice performing together

# Take-Home Activity 4: Pumpkin Growing Journal

Materials: Seed packet, small pot, journal pages

If timing allows (spring planting):

- Plant pumpkin seeds at home
- Keep weekly growth journal with drawings
- Measure and record growth
- Share results with class in fall

# Take-Home Activity 5: Cultural Traditions Sharing

Materials: Family interview form

Students interview family members:

- How did your family celebrate autumn when you were young?
- What traditions do we have now?
- How are celebrations different in different places?
- What foods are special for our family?



# 12. Materials and Resources

#### **Basic Supplies**

- Orange manipulatives or counters (5 per child)
- Large floor number line (0-10)
- Ten frames (1 per child)
- Orange construction paper
- Pumpkin-shaped cutouts
- Real small pumpkins (optional)
- Orange paint and brushes
- · Glue sticks and scissors

#### Digital Resources

- Online versions of the rhyme with audio
- Pumpkin life cycle videos
- Virtual pumpkin patch field trips
- Math apps featuring counting and subtraction

#### Books to Support Learning

- "It's Pumpkin Time" by Jean McElroy
- "Pumpkin Pumpkin" by Jeanne Titherington
- "The Biggest Pumpkin Ever" by Steven Kroll
- · "From Seed to Pumpkin" by Wendy Pfeffer
- · "Five Little Pumpkins" by Dan Yaccarino

#### Optional Enhancement Materials:

- Costumes for dramatic play
- · Musical instruments for rhythm activities
- Digital camera for documentation
- · Laminator for reusable materials
- · Real pumpkins for science investigation

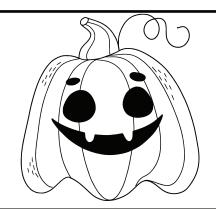
### **Essential Materials List**

## **Week Before Starting Unit**

- Gather all materials and make copies
  Set up dramatic play center
  Preview all books and digital resources
  Send home parent information letter

## **Day Before Each Lesson**

- Review lesson plans and gather materials
  Prepare any cut-out materials
  Set up activity stations
  Charge any digital devices needed



# **During Unit**

- Take photos of student work and activities
  Document student quotes and observations
  Collect work samples for portfolios
  Communicate progress with families

# **Preparation Timeline**



- Supervise use of scissors and art materials Ensure all small manipulatives are appropriate for age group Check for pumpkin or food allergies before tasting activities Maintain clear pathways during movement activities

## **Specific Precautions:**

- Teacher handles all cutting of real pumpkins Provide hand washing after handling pumpkins Use non-toxic art materials only

- Ensure adequate lighting for all activities Have first aid kit accessible during all activities



# Conclusion

The "Five Little Pumpkins" teaching packet provides educators with a comprehensive, engaging approach to early childhood learning that honors children's natural curiosity while building essential academic skills. Through the familiar comfort of a beloved rhyme, children explore mathematical concepts, develop literacy skills, engage in scientific thinking, and express creativity.

This resource supports differentiated instruction, cultural responsiveness, and family engagement while maintaining the joy and wonder that make learning meaningful for young children. The activities can be adapted for various learning environments and modified to meet individual student needs.

Remember that the goal is not just academic achievement, but also fostering a love of learning, confidence in problem-solving, and appreciation for traditions that bring communities together. The "Five Little Pumpkins" serves as a perfect vehicle for these important educational outcomes.

Happy Teaching!

