

Celebrations - Halloween

Activity 1 – Pumpkin Play

Key areas of learning:

- Maths (Shape)
- Fine Motor skills

What you will need:

- Small and/or large pumpkin (butternut squash can be used as an alternative)
- Kitchen knife and spoon
- Elastic bands
- Plastic food bag (optional)

What to do:

- Support child to scoop out the inside of a pumpkin. Adult to carve simple shapes into the pumpkin.
- Encourage child to explore the pumpkin and its seeds (place inside a plastic food bag for a less messy, less tactile activity). Comment on how each part feels using vocabulary such as 'hard', 'smooth' and 'slimy'.
- Give child the pieces you cut out of the pumpkin and encourage them to place the pieces into the correct-shaped holes. Comment on the shapes, e.g. "the circle is round", "let's feel the corners of the square".
- With the small pumpkins, model stretching elastic bands around them and encourage child to do the same. Where appropriate, ask child to select elastic bands of a particular size/colour to place around the pumpkin.

Extension:

- Use questioning to develop this activity further. Ask questions such as "is it hard or soft?", "what shape is it?" and "which elastic band is bigger?"
- Provide instructions to encourage listening skills, e.g. "pass me the circle" and "find the yellow elastic bands".

Attachments:

N/A



Activity 2 – Dough Spiders

Key areas of learning:

- Creativity
- Fine Motor Skills
- Independence Skills
- Science
- Social Interaction

What you will need:

- Toy spider (this could be a plastic toy, a soft toy, or even a cut-out picture)
- Piece of material for a 'web' (e.g. netting, scarf)
- Playdough (shop-bought or home-made)
- Playdough tools, e.g. rolling pin, scissors, blunt knife

What to do:

- Begin with a social game to gain child's attention and build anticipation skills. Refer to Spider action rhyme lyrics.
- Model creating a 'spider' out of playdough by manipulating the dough with your hands and tools. Comment on what you're doing using words such as "roll", "squash", "tear" and "cut". Use pieces of dried spaghetti, pipe cleaners, etc to create the spider's legs.
- Provide dough and tools, and encourage child to create their own spider as independently as possible. Use keywords to comment on what actions the child is using.

Extension:

- Place tools out of reach to encourage child to request them using preferred method of communication (e.g. ask for the scissors using speech, sign, symbol or gesture).
- Further develop fine motor skills by threading string through the spider threading picture. If possible, back the picture onto card for more durability.

Attachments:

- 'Spider' action rhyme lyrics
- Playdough recipe
- Spider threading picture



Activity 3 – The Skeleton Dance

Key areas of learning:

- Science
- Writing
- Fine Motor Skills

What you will need:

- Internet access on an iPad, Computer or Laptop
- Mirror (optional)
- Paper and writing tools (e.g. pens, chalk, crayons)
- Straws, cut into various sizes
- Glue

What to do:

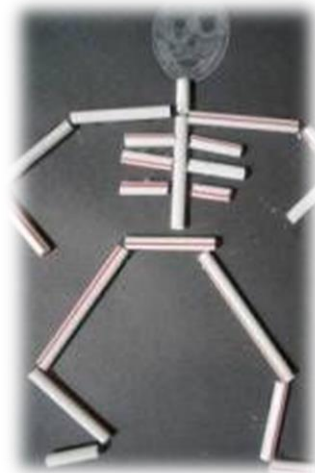
- Listen to 'The Skeleton Dance', which can be accessed on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbl4BNkAq_U
- As you listen to the song, encourage child to point to each body part in turn. Emphasise the name of each body part and where appropriate, draw child's attention to these using a mirror.
- Use preferred writing tools to draw a basic skeleton. Comment on the lines and curves that need to be drawn in order to create a skeleton picture, e.g. "big line" for legs and "little curve" for head. Where necessary, model creating these marks for child to trace or copy.
- Create a skeleton picture by sticking straws (cut into various sizes) onto paper. Support child to make links between the picture and their own body parts.

Extension:

- Explore the functions of different body parts. How many different ways can you move your hands? Can you wiggle your fingers? What do we use our ears for?

Attachments:

N/A



Activity 4 – Story Time

Key areas of learning:

- Reading
- Social Interaction
- Role Play
- Attention Skills

What you will need:

- 'In the Hairy Scary Castle' story (see attachments)

What to do:

- Read the story with your child, following the instructions to make each part interactive.

Extension:

- Adapt the story to suit the likes, interests and abilities of your child.
- You do not need to read the whole story in one go and you can adapt/add/remove props, depending on what you have available at home.

Attachments:

- 'In the Hairy Scary Castle' story, with suggested activities

