



# News You Can Use

October 25, 2019

## Large Group:

Tuesday/Thursday: This week we began to focus a bit more on pumpkins. We sang two songs about pumpkins: “5 little pumpkins sitting on a gate” and “5 little pumpkins” from Super Simple Songs. Then we had fun playing with playdoh while reading an interactive book on our TapIt. While we read the book we had fun pounding, squeezing, and rolling our own piece of orange playdoh. When we were finished the children made an orange ball. Then we put a small pipe cleaner in the top for a stem creating a playdoh pumpkin.

Wednesday/Friday: This week we sang our phonics song, number song and seasonal songs. While singing the 5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate, we let the children remove the pumpkins. We also worked on the mathematical concept of Big/Small. Children were asked to identify/touch the big pumpkins and little pumpkins.

## Music and Movement:

Tuesday/Thursday: This week we talked about sizes while looking at big, medium, and small pumpkins. The children followed directions and placed them on the parachute such as “take the big pumpkin and put it on the parachute”. Then we shook the parachute to the freeze song. At the end of the song, the children had another opportunity to practice the size concepts while putting the pumpkins away.

Wednesday: We danced and sang to our favorite songs.

Friday: Ms. Dawn helped set up an obstacle course for us. We had so much fun hopping over hula hoops, crawling through a tunnel, and spinning on a sit and spin.. This was such a great experience for the kiddos. We are planning on doing this more throughout the year.

## **Literacy:**

Tuesday/Thursday: We read the book "It's Pumpkin Time" by Zoe Hall. In this book the children learned about the life cycle of the pumpkin beginning with a seed, vine, flowers, green pumpkins, yellow pumpkins, and orange pumpkins. We had fun talking about the pictures in the book and responding to wh questions.

Wednesday/Friday: We read the book We're going on a Ghost Hunt. Children enjoyed the repetitive phrases in this story.

## **Small Groups:**

Cassi Small Group 1: In this group we colored pumpkins, but not the usual way. First, each child was given a zip-lock baggie with a pumpkin drawn on the front. Next we added a dollop of red and yellow paint. As the children kneaded the baggie they say the two colors mix together to make the color orange. They were so surprised.

Core vocabulary words: red, yellow, orange, make, more

Cassi Small Group 2: In this group we used dot markers to color in a pumpkin. We used core vocabulary words: Green, orange, make, put on

OT Small Group 1: This week, students used tactile exploration to feel leaves from outside trees. We learned about bumpy, hard, and rough textures. Students then were instructed on using a small crayon to enforce proper grasp while coloring over leaves to make a leaf press picture. They did great and worked hard to sustain coloring for an increased amount of time. Keep coloring at home!

OT Small Group 2: This week, students explored the bumping and silky texture of leaves to provide tactile sensory input. Students then worked on grasp, classroom tool tolerance, directions, and attention span through using a dot marker to add color to their cut out leaf. They were attentive and liked picking which color to use.

Speech Small Group: This week the children had fun painting mini pumpkins. We took turns feeling the pumpkin and describing it with words such as orange, bumpy, round, and hard. Then we painted our pumpkins with red, yellow, blue, and green paint. During this activity the children worked on their expressive language skills, use of describing words, following directions, and taking turns.

## **Choice Time Activities:**

**Kitchen/Dramatic play: Apple pie making.**

**Blocks and Cars: We measured using non-standard measuring tools (mini pumpkins and gourds and we made a class scarecrow using newspaper as the stuffing.**

**Feeling Table: In this area we explored floating items and non floating items. Children used scoops and strainers to gather floating apples and pumpkins.**

**Quiet reading: New Halloween and fall books were added to this area. Children are always welcome to go to the reading area during choice time.**

**Table Toy Activities:** As always, the children are drawn to the Manga Tile pieces. Lincoln Logs, bristle blocks, magnetic 'paper dolls', apple sorting activities and lacing cards.

## **Notes:**

\*We did not carve the pumpkins on Thursday as planned. After seeing the kiddos in their costumes, I did not want to get them dirty. We will carve the pumpkins next week.

\*Note all, but a few of our friends tried the applesauce we made on Wednesday.

**Important Dates: No School on Friday November 8th.**

**Have a great weekend!!!!**

Your Team:

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