



# Pumpkins

WTG At Home, Weeks 7 & 8

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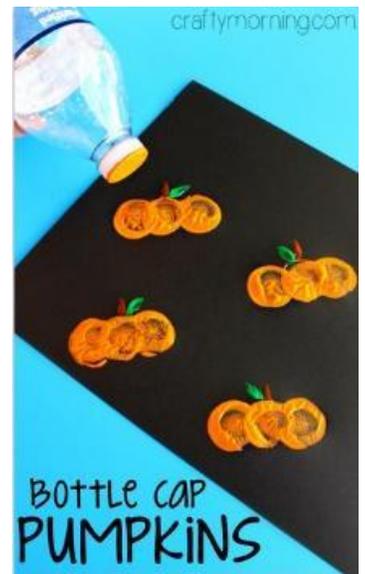
**\*Materials listed in purple will be provided at October 8th Art Pickup\***

## Art Activity: Bottle Cap Pumpkins

**Materials:** Black paper, water bottle with lid, orange & green paint, small paint brush (or Qtip)

**Directions:** Put some orange paint on a plate. Have your toddlers dip the lid of a water bottle in the paint and stamp onto the black paper to make pumpkins. When the paint has dried, use a small brush (or Qtip) and green paint to add the “stems”

**Extensions:** How many different shaped pumpkins can you paint? Try placing 2 or 3 orange circles next to each other. If you have glitter, sprinkle it on top of the wet paint to create some extra sparkle to your picture!



## Art Activity: Pumpkin Frame Sticky Art

**Materials:** Pumpkin shaped paper frame, piece of contact paper, misc. fall themed art supplies (paper squares, textured items, stickers, etc.)

**Directions:** Carefully unpeel the contact paper and attach to the pumpkin shaped frame. Have your toddler attach fall themed sensory items to the sticky part. When you are done, hang the picture on a window and see the different colors shine through!

**Extensions:** Instead of adding art supplies to the contact paper, use colorful fall leaves to create a “fall” picture



## Art Activity: Fall Family Photo

**Materials:** Sparkly foam frame, stickers

**Directions:** Say CHEESE for Halloween! Have your little one decorate their sparkly fall frame with stickers, and add one of your favorite fall photos. This will be a fun keepsake you can bring out every year.



## Fine Motor: Pumpkin Seed Transfer

**Materials:** Seeds from a carving pumpkin, bowls

**Directions:** Carve open a pumpkin and take out the seeds. Rinse the seeds under cool water to get the pulp off. Spread the seeds on a cookie sheet and let dry overnight.

Once the seeds are dry, place them in a bowl. Have your toddler use their fingers (or tweezers for older toddlers) to transfer the seeds from one bowl to another.

**Extensions:** Use a dice to figure out how many seeds to transfer. To add more challenge, use a timer to see how quickly they can transfer the seeds. Make it a game and see who is faster. Watch those little fingers fly!



## Fine Motor: Pushpin Pumpkin - *ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED!*

**Materials:** Pumpkin, kid size hammer or mallet, items to hammer into pumpkin (sticks, toothpicks, golf tees, large nails)

**Directions:** Practice those hammer skills! How many items can your toddler hammer into the pumpkin?

**Extensions:** For older kids, provide them with a large supply of rubber bands. Have them wrap the rubber bands around the items that were hammered into the pumpkin. It's like your very own pumpkin geo-board!!



## Imaginative Play: Let's Go to the Pumpkin Patch!

**Materials:** Variety of gourds and pumpkins, small hay bale, boxes, baskets, scale, etc.

**Directions:** Create your very own pumpkin patch at home! Use hay bales or boxes to stack the pumpkins on. Create a "weighing station" with a scale. Use baskets or other toys to help transfer the pumpkins from the patch. Create a checkout area in which you can "buy" your pumpkins. Let your imagination lead the way!



### Alternatives:

- Instead of hay bales or boxes, gather pillows/bean bags/cushions and pile them on the floor. Cover with a large blanket and pile the pumpkins on top. Now you have a softer pumpkin patch, without the mess of hay!
- If you don't want to purchase pumpkins, have your toddler use an orange crayon or marker to color small paper bags. Add some crumpled paper to bags, staple closed, and now you have your very own "pumpkins"!

## Gross Motor: Pumpkin Shape Movement Game

**Materials:** Printed game

**Directions:** Post the pumpkins throughout your house, and ask your little one to match the shape pieces to the correct pumpkin. Make a race out of it and see how fast they can go!



## Sensory Bin: Pumpkin Pulp Mat

**Materials:** Pulp from a pumpkin (or pumpkin puree from a can), 2 large ziplock bags, masking tape

**Directions:** Fill a ziplock bag about half full with pumpkin pulp. Lay the bag flat and squeeze out as much air as you can. Seal the bag, and place inside the second ziplock bag. Squeeze the air out again, seal the bag, and add masking tape to the seal to make sure it stays tightly closed. Lay the bag on the floor or on a table and let your toddler feel the squishiness, but in a mess-free way!

**Extensions:** Add small sensory items to the puree such as rice, raisins, beans, beads, buttons, you name it!



## Sensory Bin: Halloween Parade Shakers!

**Materials:** Empty and clean plastic bottle (ex. Gatorade bottle), uncooked rice or beans, **fall themed beads**, variety of small items (buttons, Legos, magnets, etc), masking tape

**Directions:** Place a variety of sensory items inside an empty plastic bottle. Fill about halfway. Place the lid back on top and add masking tape around the lid to make sure it stays tightly closed. Now you have a shaker for your Halloween Parade! Get dressed up in your favorite costumes and march around the house. Get the whole family involved for even more fun!



## Science: Different Stages of a Pumpkin

**Materials:** Carving pumpkin, can of pumpkin puree, bowls, newspaper or drop cloth (to catch all of the pumpkin mess)

**Directions:** Cut open a pumpkin, scoop out some of the pulp, and place it in a bowl. In a separate bowl, pour a can of pumpkin puree. Place the pumpkin and two bowls in front of your little one and let them squeeze and play with the gooey mess!

**Extensions:** Try different types of pumpkins, gourds, or squash. Are the pulps inside the same or different? How about the seeds? What does it smell like? What does it taste like?



## Science: Look Closely, What Do You See?

**Materials:** Variety of pumpkins, gourds, and squash (small sizes are preferable); magnifying glass (optional)

**Directions:** Let your little one explore different pumpkins. What do you see? What does it feel like? Is it bumpy or smooth? Is it heavy or light?

**Extensions:** Play the “Roll the Pumpkin” game. Sit on the floor across from your toddler and roll your pumpkins back and forth to each other, singing “I roll the pumpkin to \_\_\_\_\_, s/he rolls it back to me!” Add more family members for even more fun!



### Songs:

[5 Little Pumpkins](#)

[5 Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Gate](#)

[I'm a Little Pumpkin](#)

[Jack O Lantern Song](#)

[Pumpkin Chant](#)

[Them Bones](#)

### Read Alouds:

[Five Little Pumpkins](#)

[It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse!](#)

[It's Pumpkin Time](#)

[Penguin and Pumpkin](#)

[Pumpkins Pumpkins Everywhere](#)

[The Biggest Pumpkin Ever](#)