

Family Bulletin

Key Concept:
Pumpkins and
Sounds

VOCABULARY:

SCARECROW

PUMPKIN

JACK-O'-LANTERN

WOODS

BEHIND

IN FRONT

WALKING

RUNNING

SCARED

SAD

KNOCKED

SHAKE

WIGGLE

NOD

STOMP

PARTY

FASTER

SLOWER

DARK

LIGHT

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything

The main book for this unit is *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* written by Linda Williams and illustrated by Megan Lloyd.

This is the story of a little old lady who sets off for a walk in the forest, but as the sun goes down, some strange things happen in the forest and the little old lady starts back home in a hurry. All the way home, the little old lady keeps saying she is not afraid of anything. This story was chosen because it lends itself to Circle and Learning Center activities. It incorporates the natural use of the negative **not** in familiar, repetitive text.

The related book for this unit is *Picking Apples and Pumpkins* written by Amy and Richard Hutching and illustrated by Richard Hutching. This is an

informational book about a family who goes to an apple orchard and a pumpkin patch. The book includes actual pictures of their trip and describes what happens during their day. This book was chosen because it provides children with important vocabulary and illustrates a natural sequence of events as this family visits the pumpkin patch. These features will help children identify the props needed for creating their own classroom pumpkin patch in Dramatic Play.

The rhyming book for this unit is *The Runaway Pumpkin* written by Kevin Lewis and illustrated by S.D. Schindler. This is a funny story about what happens when children pull a huge pumpkin from its vine. As the pumpkin rolls past family

members, each person thinks of something Granny Baxter makes from pumpkins. Finally, Poppa Baxter uses his tractor to plow a bed for the pumpkin to land in. Granny gets hold of the massive pumpkin and goes to work baking an array of pumpkin treats. This book has nice rhythm to go along with its rhyming text.

An additional rhyming book was selected for this unit to incorporate Halloween into the Pumpkin and Sounds theme. *The Night Before Halloween* written by Natasha Wing and illustrated by Cynthia Fisher. This story is in the style of the familiar poem, "The Night Before Christmas," and tells how a houseful of monsters, goblins, and witches and the like prepare for Halloween.

Bringing it Home—The Home and School Connection

Try these great ideas to bring the key concept of this unit, **Pumpkins and Sounds**, into your home!

Make a scarecrow for your yard, porch, or house. Gather some old clothes, including pants or overalls, a long-sleeved shirt, boots,

and a hat. Stuff the clothing with crumpled newspaper. Cut shapes from paper to make the facial features. Sit the scarecrow in a chair. Encourage your child to make up a name for the scarecrow.

Make a jack-o'-lantern. Ask your child to use a pencil to draw the cutout design areas on the pumpkin. (Only an adult should use a knife to make the cuts in the pumpkin.) Cut off the top of the pumpkin, and make the other cuts for the pumpkin's facial features.

Target Letter
and Sound

P p

as in Pat, pop,
happy, or top

For the LOVE of reading

Rhyming Words:

eye—pie
coop—soup
bread—head
plowed—crowd
round—ground

Other Language Targets:

Prepositions:

IN FRONT
BEHIND
THROUGH
BESIDE

What's the best way to create a lifelong reader? Reading together! Reading is free, fun, and will bring you and your child closer. Find a time each day when you and your youngster can get cozy and enjoy a good book.

Here are three tips to help you choose stories:

Ask librarians, friends, and teachers for recommendation.

Tip: If your child doesn't already have a library card, sign her up!

Find books that expand your youngster's interests (insects, outer space), deal with an event (a new baby, a visit to

the dentist), and build character (friendship, truthfulness).

Pick stories for both information and enjoyment. Try real and make-believe stories and poems, as well as children's magazines.

Taken from Home & School Connection, 2007

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, "I don't care."

The fourth one said, "Let's run and run, and run!"

The fifth one said, "We're ready for some fun."

Oooo went the wind and out went the light,

And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.

Guess the Book!

Together with your child try to guess the name of the children's book from the following quote:

"Eddy likes to eat, and eat, and eat."

Answer: *"Pancakes, Crackers, and Pizza"*, written by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler