



Caring & Sharing

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS WHO CARE & SHARE WITH CHILDREN



LETTER / LITERACY / RECOGNITION



Laminate alphabet mats in an autumn theme. Have children choose one letter at a time and use play dough to fill in the outlines.

NUMERALS / MATH / COUNTING



Laminate pumpkin patch mats, one for each child. Call out or have a child choose a number to put in the patch. Represent the number with both numerals and "pumpkins."

NATURE / SCIENCE / OBSERVING

Go on an autumn exploration! Collect leaves, pumpkins, acorns, pine cones and any other fall nature items you can find with your class. Make observations. What do they feel like? What color are they? Are they heavy? Use your items to make play dough impressions. What do you notice you didn't see before?

Immune System Boosting Foods

Arm your body to fight the cold-flu season



Cruciferous Vegetables

Like broccoli, kale, spinach & cabbage

Strengthen liver to flush out toxins



Yogurt

Contains live cultures with good bacteria that maintain a healthy digestive system



Garlic

Contains allicin which combats bacteria & infection



Chicken soup

Studies have shown it may help white blood cells fight infection



Shellfish

Many like lobster, oysters & crab contain selenium, which helps produce virus-fighting proteins called cytokines

Homemade Science - Fall pumpkin play dough

Let preschoolers watch from **start to finish** how these ingredients turn into play dough! This process teaches **observation** and scientific thinking. Discuss what you're doing during each step. Have children describe what they see and smell. (*It smells like fall!*) Use descriptive words: *smooth, soft, mushy*. When the dough is finished, discuss the **cause and effect** and process it took to make it.

Ingredients: • 1 c. flour • 1/4 c. salt • 2 Tbsp. cream of tartar • 1 pkt orange Jello • Cinnamon • Pumpkin pie spice • 1 c. water • 1 Tbsp. veg. oil

Directions: 1. Combine first 5 ingredients in a saucepan or pot; spices as desired. 2. Stir in oil. 3. Stir continually over medium heat for 3-5 min. or until ball forms in pan. 4. Remove ball from pan and let cool slightly before kneading. 5. Knead until smooth, continue cool in refrigerator.

More play dough activities!

Tools & Texture - Cut with scissors, roll with a pin, make impressions with bubble wrap, etc.

Shapes - Form and identify different shapes. This will help develop foundations for future geometric understanding and problem solving.

8 Reasons to PLAY with PLAY DOUGH

- Active, engaged learning
- Allows creativity
- Promotes expression + develops self-concept
- Encourages exploration + investigation
- Physical outlet for energy
- Sensory experience
- Fine motor skill development
- FUN!

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Important Dates:

Oct. 13 - Columbus Day

Oct. 31 - Halloween

Nov. 3 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Nov. 8 - CCR CPR & First Aid

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day

Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Day



MAKE A FACE!

One more play dough activity

WHERE in the world?

A geography lesson for preschoolers in celebration of Columbus Day - October 13!

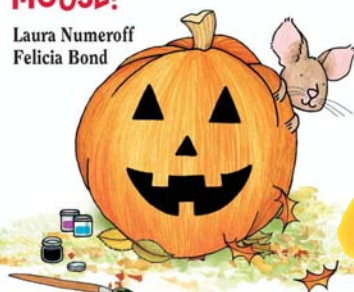
Lesson: Where are we now? In the classroom! Where is the classroom? In the school! Where's the school? Show several maps of these locations with a star where you are. Explain that you're in the school, the school is in the city, the city is in the state, and the state is in the USA. Where's the USA? In the world!

Activity: Geography Nesting Boxes - Using boxes or Tupperware containers that nest inside one another, place images of the following from biggest to smallest container: World, USA, Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth, and your School. You can take it a step further and make a box for your classroom. Mix up the boxes and have the class decide which ones fit in the right order.

Game: Musical Squares - Lay out a large group of carpet squares, at least one per child. First hold up an image of the world. Explain that the carpet squares are the world. Play music and have children move from square to square. Remove a carpet square and then stop the music. Whoever isn't on a square is out. The next round ask what the next biggest place is--the USA. Continue for each place.

IT'S PUMPKIN DAY, MOUSE!

Laura Numeroff
Felicia Bond



Mouse is decorating for Halloween. He has seven pumpkins he wants to paint. On each one he decides to make a different face--happy, sad, silly, scary... Read *It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse!* before trying one more play dough activity. Print and laminate pumpkin mats like the one above. Then using yellow play dough have children make each of the seven faces from the book. What other faces can you come up with?

Leaf Match Identification

Before class:

- Gather several different types of leaves
- Make outlines of each on a piece of butcher paper with plenty of space around them
- Print out images of the different types of trees the leaves come from with an image of the leaf along side. Also include name of the tree.

Activity:

- Lay leaves out on the floor
- Have children match the leaves to their outlines by the shape (you can have more than one leaf per outline to allow more children to match)
- Attach the leaves to the paper with clear tape
- Next match the leaves to the picture and identify the type of tree.
- Write the name of each under the leaves
- Discuss and describe each leaf's color, size, shape, etc. and write description underneath

We Are Pumpkins!

(tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)

We are pumpkins, big & round,
Big & round, big & round!
We are pumpkins, big & round,
Sitting on the ground.

We are growing in the sun,
In the sun, in the sun!
We are growing in the sun,
All summer--it's so much fun!

When it's fall we're picked from the vine,
Picked from the vine, picked from the vine!
When it's fall we're picked from the vine,
To make yummy pumpkin pie!

Experience **SCIENCE** in the Classroom: **SEEDS & SPROUTS**

What are vegetables, fruit, flowers and trees? They are **plants**. Where do plants come from? They grow from **seeds**! Look at several examples in pictures. Pass around more real examples that children can feel. Use a magnifying glass and explore them.

Seed Match - Gather several different kinds of fall veggies and a packet of the same kind of seeds. Make a class chart of the different kinds.

Indian Corn Experiment

How can these veggies come from such tiny seeds? Just like we need food and water to help us grow, plants and seeds need them too! Plants need water and sunlight. Look at an ear of corn. The corn that we eat are actually the seeds to make a new corn plant!

- Place an ear of Indian corn in a tub with about 1/2 inch of water and place near a window.
- Each day make observations and chart them on a calendar. Take photos also and add to the calendar.

Photo from: thingstoshareandremember.com

Boo Mix!

A snack that's sweet and salty and kind of corny, too!

Ingredients: • Popcorn
• Corn Chex • Pretzels • Vanilla Almond Bark • Pumpkin pie spice • Wax paper • Gallon-size clear plastic bags • Googly eyes
• Yarn • Craft glue

Directions: 1. Combine equal parts Corn Chex, popcorn and pretzels 2. Melt Almond Bark; add spice as desired. 3. Pour over snack mixture; stir. 4. Spread snack mix on wax paper; let set. 5. Fill plastic bag with mix; close. 6. Glue eyes on and mouth; let dry



Fresh from the Patch

Bite-Size "Pumpkins" & Honey-Mustard Dip

Ingredients: • Carrots, whole • Celery • 1 c. Greek yogurt • 1/2 c. Yellow mustard • 1/2 c. Honey • Green onion

Directions: 1. Mix yogurt, mustard and honey in a bowl 2. Cut carrots, celery & green onion 4. Assemble "pumpkin patch" by filling celery stalks with dip and topping each carrot with a green onion. Enjoy!



Turkeys in Bloom

Coffee filter, fall color Thanksgiving craft

Materials: • Coffee filters • Washable markers • Scissors • Cardboard or brown construction paper • Yarn • Googly eyes • Construction paper for face • Glue • Toilet paper roll • Spray bottle & water

Directions: 1. Cut out body from cardboard (i.e. cereal box), legs, beak and waddle 2. Fold coffee filter in quarters and scallop edge 3. Color filters with markers 4. Spray coffee filters with water, let dry 5. Glue body, face and legs onto the filter 6. Glue the toilet paper roll to the back of the turkey

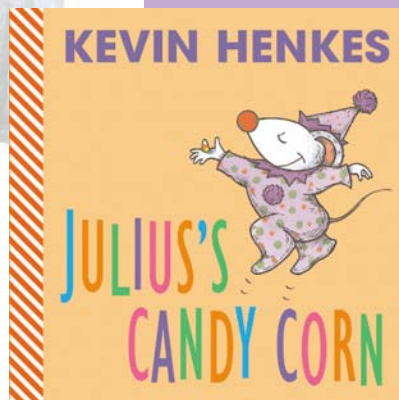


Book Review!



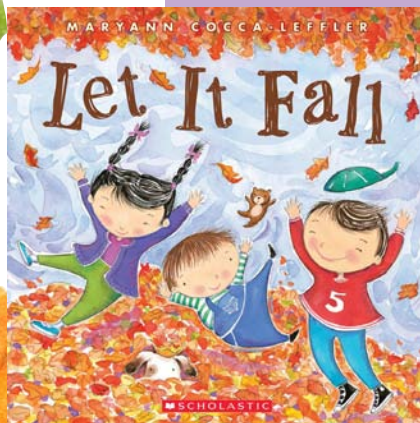
Julius's Candy Corn

by Kevin Henkes
for ages 2 and up



Julius and his mother are throwing a Halloween party. Julius is mesmerized with the candy corn-topped cupcakes. His mother warns he cannot eat them until the guests arrive. So Julius decides to "count" them instead. By the time he has counted each one, all the candy corn are gone! This short and sweet story is perfect for preschoolers to count along with Julius.

Let it Fall

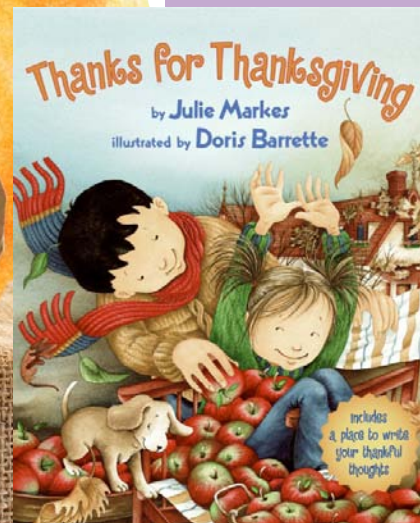


by MaryAnn Cocca-Leffler
for ages 2 and up

Children will be enthralled with fall after reading this book. Simple rhyming phrases and descriptive language bring all the sights, sounds and feelings of the autumn season to life. "Chilly, windy, gusty breeze, rake, rake, rake the falling leaves!" Soft, friendly illustrations complement the story.

Thanks for Thanksgiving

by Julie Markes
illustr. by Doris Barrette
for ages 2 and up



Julie Markes incorporates all the wonders of fall with the many blessings we enjoy year round. Reminding adults and showing children the many things in the world we can be thankful for. Markes encourages readers to appreciate everything from turkey and pie to learning at school. Autumn-hued illustrations add to the warmth of the story.

**CCR wants to
help you
with all your
staffing needs
this fall!**

**Simply give us a call!
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FYI

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www.childcareresourcesinc.com

