

Outline for Early Childhood Library Activity Making Pumpkins

Standards / Positions Statements

This lesson focuses on small motor skills. During the fall season, this can be a great project. For young children, this activity will mainly focus on small motor skills, imagination, memory and creativity.

Children Input / Purpose

During the fall season, our office is decorated with real pumpkins, leaves and other figures that correspond to the season. A child asked if we could paint real pumpkins. I explained that we are borrowing the classroom and we have very young children in class so we can decorate pumpkins instead of painting pumpkins. Also, if in the next class there are mainly older children, we would be able to use our paints, but to keep in mind to be very careful with the paints. The children can make as many pumpkins as possible, if time allows. We used the pumpkins to decorate the office, to take home and to give to parents.

Theme / Main Goals

The theme for this lesson is based on the fall season. We don't see pumpkins in the regular basis. We can open a conversation about fall, using pumpkins for decoration or as food. The pumpkin is very versatile. The children will be encouraged to fully participate.

Small Group Opportunities

In a small group, each child can cut the pumpkin shape using construction paper or the shapes can be pre-cut. The children can use cupcake liners to fill in the pumpkin. The children can also make jack-o-lanterns using pre-cut eyes, mouth, noses. The children can also cut-out their own shapes. This is a very flexible lesson with many ways to be creative.

Individual Opportunities

If a child did not finish his pumpkins, he can take the time to finish the pumpkins during a time were he can choose his activity. A child can also use this idea and modify it to his individual needs: perhaps using markers, paint or scrap paper to fill in his pumpkin.

One on One - Teacher / Child Opportunities

If a child needs extra help with this activity, a teacher can provide the help. Perhaps it can be an issue with cutting out the shapes, gluing, etc. Perhaps the child was absent and missed the lesson. The teacher can go over the lesson with the child in an individual basis.

Materials / Organization

Can be pre-cut or have children cut out the figures

Construction paper (black, green, orange)

Small cupcake liners (preferably orange)

Markers

Scissors

Glue

Assessment / Growth and Development of the Children in your Care

We can talk about the fall season and ask the children, "what do you see mostly during fall?" Open a conversation and let the children lead the way. We can talk about the different ways that pumpkins are used through the season and ask what other food items are also very present during the fall season. Perhaps this will be the first time that children have been exposed to pumpkins and how they are used. Have a real pumpkin as a model so the children can hold, smell and touch the pumpkin.

