

OCTOBER 2021

Family Newsletter

October Book List

The Spooky Wheels on the Bus
by J. Elizabeth Mills

Room on the Broom
by Julia Donaldson

Pumpkin Party
by Maudie Powell-Tuck

Ten Timid Ghosts
by Jennifer O'Connell

The Night Before Halloween
by Cynthia Fisher

Pete the Cat: Five Little Pumpkins
by James Dean

OCTOBER UPDATE

WHO DOESN'T LOVE OCTOBER?! It's arguably the most looked forward to month of the year for young kids. Believe it or not, in February 2021 *YouGovAmerica* conducted a survey of 15,000 adults in the United States and October was the favorite month! Whether it's the crunch of fall leaves or the excitement of Halloween, October is our favorite too!

Keeping the children in our center and our teachers healthy is our top priority. This year we want to be able to celebrate Halloween, but we want to make sure we are doing it in a safe and healthy way! Below are some ideas we have come up with that we wanted to share with you in case you wanted to try them out too!

- **Decorate pumpkins** – help your child with a design to carve out of their pumpkin or let them paint their pumpkin. Once they are finished, take a picture, and send it to your classroom. Your child can then share their pumpkin with the class!
- **Become a Mad Scientist** – What better way to celebrate Halloween than by conducting experiments that are spooky and creepy! Here are some examples:
 - Vampire slime
 - Ghost rockets
 - Frankenstein's phlegm
 - Pumpkin playdough
- **Spooky Story Time** – Make story time spooky by turning down the lights or making a fort to read in. Dress up in your Halloween costume to make it fun and make a Halloween themed snack. Get cozy and read a few Halloween stories or take turns making up Halloween stories.
- **Halloween Themed Games** – Turn your favorite games into Halloween themed games to celebrate the day. Use Google or Pinterest to search Halloween games and find a few that are easy to assemble. Then spend some time making and playing the games. Here are some examples:
 - Bean Bag Toss – using recycled cans, paint them to resemble your favorite Halloween characters. Stack them to make a pyramid and toss a bean bag at them to knock them down.
 - Glow in the Dark Ring Toss – Place 2-3 pumpkins in the yard. Make rings out of glow sticks. Once it gets dark, go outside, and try to toss the rings onto the stems of the pumpkins.
 - Pumpkin Poke – Using a piece of cardboard, glue plastic cups onto it in the shape of a pumpkin. Place pieces of candy or a small prize in a few of the cups. Cover all the cups with a square of tissue paper and a rubber band to secure the tissue paper. Have your child search the cups for a prize by poking a hole in the cups.

For Grins



Q: I'm tall when I'm young, I'm short when I'm old, and every Halloween I stand up inside jack-o-lanterns.

What am I?

(Go to Page 2 for the answer)

Happy Halloween!



BRINGING IT HOME

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



INFANTS AND TODDLERS



Reading At Home Promotes Success

Did you know that young children who are read five books per day, heard approximately **1.4 million words** more before kindergarten than children that were not read to? In a study done by The Ohio State University, researchers emphasize that children who hear more vocabulary words will be better prepared to read the printed words when they begin school. To read more about this study, go to

<https://bit.ly/OctMillionWords>



Reading Rockets has created tips sheets for reading to your child at every age (baby through 3rd grade), as well as reading to your child in other languages or children with disabilities. To download or view these tip sheets, go to

<https://bit.ly/OctReadingtoYourChild>

...And don't forget to check out our monthly book list for fun, seasonal book suggestions.

PRESCHOOL AND PRE-K



Jack-o-Lantern Suncatcher

Start by giving your child a piece of contact paper that is cut into a pumpkin shape. Ask them to cut out eyes, a nose, and a mouth out of black construction paper and place them on the sticky side of the pumpkin cut out. Next, have them rip orange tissue paper and cover the contact paper. Last, have them add a green stem with tissue paper or construction paper. Hang in a window where the sun shines!

Coffee Filter Monsters

Flatten out a coffee filter and let your child draw on the filter using washable markers. Make sure they fill in most of the space with color. Then take a spray bottle an eye dropper with water and slowly add water. Once your child is happy with the result, have them add googly eyes, arms, and legs from construction paper to finish their monster!



Photo: One Little Project

SCHOOL AGE



Tips for Parent Teacher Conferences

As we head deeper into the school year, we approach Parent-Teacher conference time. We came across these great tips for making your conference effective and productive. For more tips, go to

<https://bit.ly/OctParentTeacherConference>

TIPS:

- Before your conference, be sure to ask your child how they feel about school.
- Make a list of any questions you have for the teacher so when you are in the moment, you don't forget to ask.
- Be sure to ask your important questions first. In case you run short on time, you'll be sure to address the most pressing issues.
- Ask how you can help at home. Often teachers have additional resources for at-home learning or tips for reinforcing good habits that are established in the classroom.
- Don't forget to thank them!
- When you get home be sure to tell your child about the conference. Talk to them about the positives and share any plans you discussed with their teacher.