

Pumpkins are an iconic symbol of fall. They come in many different shapes, sizes, and even colors. In your everyday life from September through November, your child will see pumpkins throughout their environment. The best way to learn about these orange squash is to PLAY with them.

Pounding Good Time!



Materials Needed:

Pumpkins – medium to the larger size recommended for more space and to keep fingers safe.

Golf Ts or nails, hammer – parent preference here. A small hammer and golf Ts work great for this project, but if you don't have gold, use what you have at home.

Blanket – this is a great outside activity, and using a blanket or washable tablecloth on the ground will make for easy cleanup.

Wet washcloths, towels, baby wipes – easy cleanup of messy hands

Eyewear – optional, parent preference.

Adult Supervision – support in modeling, in assistance, and to add to the fun and discovery.

How to: Set up your exploration station where you feel you have room and can manage the space. Have a few pumpkins to choose from, your hammer (s), and your items to hammer into the pumpkin. You may need to model the idea at first. As your child hammers the pieces in, they may discover they can pull them out, great – more to hammer! When they pull the pieces out, they may also discover the ends of the pegs are wet; maybe a piece of pumpkin comes out with it.

Developmentally this activity encourages language development by giving you opportunities to use descriptive language, action words, and silly sounds. This activity also encourages eye/hand coordination and fine motor development (holding the hammer and hitting the pegs into the pumpkin). You are also using large muscle/heavy work when picking up the pumpkins and maybe rolling them to your workstations. Cause and effect are happening while your child explores how hard to hammer, how soft to hammer, pulling out the pieces.

Remember – *when we model and they imitate, it is the beginning of understanding communication. When we imitate our children, we tell them their ideas and choices are powerful, encouraging them to want to do more.*

The link below has examples of how to set up for this activity:

[Pumpkin Crafts and Activities For 3 year olds - No Time For Flash Cards](#)

Pumpkin Prints!

Materials Needed:

Pumpkins – small, variety of shapes and colors

Paints, paint brushes, paper plates, paper – parent preference here. Crayola washable is a quality product that we have found to wash off easier than other brands.

Blanket – this is a great outside activity so using a blanket or washable tablecloth on the ground will make for easy clean up.

Cover up – old t-shirt, bib, apron to protect the clothes a bit.

Wet washcloths, towels, baby wipes – easy cleanup of messy hands

Adult Supervision – support in modeling, in assistance, and to add to the fun and discovery.

How to: Set up your exploration station where you feel you have room and can manage the space. Have some pumpkins cut in half already, or cut them in front of your child and explore the insides too. Cover the table surface (or your outside area) with a blanket, washable tablecloth for easy cleaning. Have 1-3 colors on a paper plate for your child to dip the pumpkin in and press onto the paper.

If you cover your table with paper, you can use that as your medium to print on. **Let the exploring begin!**

Developmentally this activity encourages language development by giving you opportunities to use descriptive language, action words, and silly sounds. Eye/hand coordination and fine motor development (holding the pumpkins, stamping them into the paint, and onto the paper) is encouraged. Cause and effect are happening while your child explores how hard or soft to make their prints, mixing colors of paint, using a paintbrush with the paint, using their hands, and squishing the paint between their fingers.



PUMPKIN
printing for toddlers



Pumpkin Baths!

Materials Needed:



Pumpkins –a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors
Water Table, bathtub, plastic tubs – parent preference here.

Bubbles, soap, washcloths, sponges – if you've just done pumpkin prints, this is a great transition activity that IS clean up.

Cover up – old t-shirt, bib, apron to protect the clothes a bit.

Towels - dry off wet hands, pumpkins, and tiny bodies.

Adult Supervision – support in modeling, in assistance, and to add to the fun and discovery.

How to: Set up your exploration station where you feel you have room and can manage the space. You can have the water ready with bubbles in it or just water with pumpkins, sponges, and washcloths. If you choose to use a bar of soap, Ivory will dissolve quickly in the water. If you choose to use a foam soap, Mr. Bubbles is fun, and there are a variety of skin-safe color and smell options. In addition, you could color on the pumpkins and see if you can wash the colors off. **Let the exploring begin!**

Developmentally this activity encourages language development by giving you opportunities to use descriptive language, action words, and silly sounds. Eye/hand coordination and fine motor development are encouraged through holding the pumpkins, washing them, covering in bubbles, and rinsing them off. Cause and effect are happening while your child explores the different sizes, notices if they float, sink and what happens when you push them into the water.