

Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch

FIELD TRIP

MATERIALS camera
chart paper
glue

- WHAT TO DO**
1. Check the area around your school to see if there is a pumpkin patch for the children to visit. Alternatives are apple orchards or sunflower gardens. In urban areas, visit a market that sells pumpkins.
 2. Invite parents to come and help their children pick out pumpkins.
 3. Upon arrival, gather the children and talk to them about how pumpkins grow, how long it takes to grow a pumpkin, and how pumpkin crops are irrigated and fertilized.
 4. Pumpkin Patch Rule: Children can only pick pumpkins they can carry themselves.
 5. Bring a camera and take a picture of each child standing next to his pumpkin. Take group shots as well.
 6. Back at school, brainstorm with the entire group about what they saw, felt, and smelled at the pumpkin patch. Write down what the children say on chart paper.
 7. Glue the photos of the children and their pumpkins to chart paper.
 8. Take everyone's stories and bind them into a book.

RELATED book *Apples and Pumpkins* by Anne Rockwell

★ Barbara Saul, Eureka, CA

AUTUMN Is...

FINGERPLAYS, SONGS, & POEMS

MATERIALS none

- WHAT TO DO**
1. Read the following action rhyme and model the motions for the children.

*Autumn is apples
Fresh-picked from the tree. ("pick" an apple)
Here's one for you, (hold out hand to offer "apple")
And here's one for me. (indicate self)*

*Autumn is a pumpkin
With a funny face, (make a funny face)
And bright-colored leaves
Blow all over the place. ("chase" leaves by running in a circle)*

*Autumn is wind;
The air's getting cool. (hug your arms)
It's time for hot chocolate (make an "mmmmm" sound)
And going to school. (go to seats and sit down)*

2. Repeat the action rhyme as desired so the children can use the motions again.

MORE TO DO **Language:** Make an Autumn Grab Bag by putting autumn items (real or pictures of them) in a bag. Let the children pull out items one at a time. As a group, identify and discuss the items. Item suggestions: apple, squash, small pumpkin, colorful leaf, Canadian goose, turkey, jacket, hay, Indian corn, and seasonal holiday items.

RELATED BOOK *I Know It's Autumn* by Eileen Spinelli

★ *Theresa Callahan, Easton, MD*

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SCARECROW, TURN AROUND

FINGERPLAYS, SONGS, & POEMS

MATERIALS none

WHAT TO DO Sing the following song, making the appropriate gestures.

*Scarecrow, scarecrow, turn around. (turn around)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, jump up and down. (jump up and down)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, arms up high. (put arms straight up)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, wink your eye. (wink your eye)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, bend your knees. (bend your knees)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, flop in the breeze. (flop loosely)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, climb into bed. (climb as if into bed)
Scarecrow, scarecrow, rest your head. (rest head on hands)*

★ *Kathy Kalmar, Macomb, MI*