

CLARITY EDUCATION SERIES

Pumpkin Fun!

A gentle Halloween & autumn pack for little ones

Nursery · ages 3-5 · Early Level



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p3 Story: Pip's Dressing-Up Day

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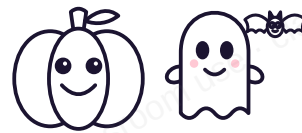
p10 'Well done' certificate

Free to print · clarityhq.uk

Friendly, not scary. No reading or writing needed. Prints well in black and white.

Notes for practitioners

How to use this pack in short, playful sessions.



AGES
3-5

The idea: five short sessions of **15–20 minutes**, led by an adult. Children listen, sing, move, point, colour and play. Nothing needs to be read or written by the children. Follow your setting's own policies, risk assessments and your placement supervisor's advice.

A simple session shape

3 min	Hello circle. Sing "Little Pumpkin" with the actions.
8–10 min	Main activity (see the plan below). Keep groups small, about 4–6 children.
5 min	Free play linked to the theme (sensory tray, dressing up, torch shadows).
2 min	Tidy up and say goodbye. Praise effort: "You counted so carefully!"

A five-session plan

- 1 Read **Pip's Dressing-Up Day**. Talk about feelings: how did Boo feel? How can we help a friend who feels shy?
- 2 Learn the song. Then **colour the pumpkin** with chunky crayons. Any colours are fine!
- 3 **Count the pumpkins**. Touch and count each one, then trace a line to the matching dots. Use real objects first.
- 4 **Match the shadow**. Follow up with torch shadows on a wall or sheet.
- 5 **Big, middle, small & sorting**, then hand out the 'Well done' certificates.

Early Level links, in plain words

Curriculum for Excellence, Early Level experiences and outcomes:

- **Literacy & English:** enjoying stories, songs and rhymes; listening and talking about them.
- **Numeracy & mathematics:** counting to 5; matching an amount to dots; big, middle and small; sorting objects and matching shapes.
- **Expressive arts:** colouring, singing, moving and dressing up.
- **Health & wellbeing:** sharing, taking turns, naming feelings, staying safe.
- **Sciences:** exploring pumpkins and leaves with the senses.

Fits play-based practice in *Realising the Ambition: Being Me*.

Safety first

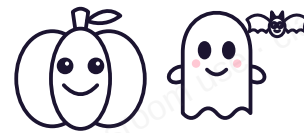
- **No real candles.** Use battery tea lights. Many hold **button batteries**, which are very dangerous if swallowed: check covers are screwed shut and keep spares out of reach.
- **Costumes:** nothing over the eyes, no long trailing parts, no cords round the neck. Choose bought costumes with a UKCA or CE mark and keep them away from heaters.
- **Treats & food play:** check every child's allergy and dietary records first and follow your setting's food policy. Homemade dough usually contains wheat.
- Under-5s can choke on small items. Pumpkin seeds, acorns and conkers are **choking hazards** (conkers and acorns are also mildly poisonous): supervise closely and wash hands after.
- Face paint: only with parent or carer permission, after a patch test.

Including everyone

Some families don't celebrate Halloween. Everything here also works as an "Autumn Pumpkin Party": pumpkins, leaves and friendly animals, with no spooky parts. No child has to dress up; a hat or a sticker is plenty. Let parents and carers know what's planned. For children with additional support needs, use real objects, signs and gestures, and fewer pictures at a time.

Pip's Dressing-Up Day

A short picture story to read aloud. Point to the pictures as you read.



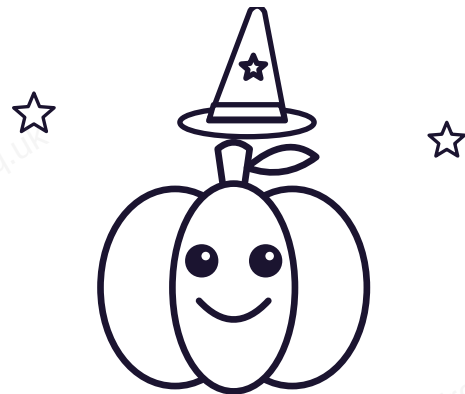
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3-5

1



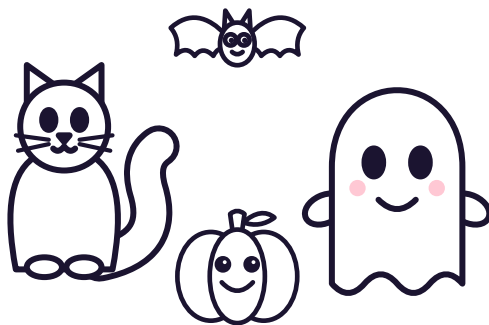
Pip the little pumpkin lived in a garden full of autumn leaves. Crunch, crunch, crunch went the leaves as Pip rolled by.

2



"It's the dressing-up party today!" said Pip. Pip found a tall, pointy hat with a star on it. "Ta-da!"

3



On the way, Pip met Tam the cat, Bibi the bat and Boo the friendly ghost. Boo felt shy. "Come with us, Boo!" said Pip.

4

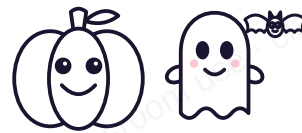


At the party they danced and sang. They counted five leaves: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5! Boo gave a big, happy smile. What a lovely day!

Talk about it: How did Boo feel at first? How did Pip help? What would you like to dress up as? Can you crunch like the leaves? Let's count to five together on our fingers.

Song: Little Pumpkin

To the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star". Sing it slowly and do the actions.



AGES
3-5



Verse 1: Little Pumpkin

Little pumpkin, round and bright,
Make a big circle with your arms.

Smiling in the autumn light,
Show your biggest smile.

Falling leaves go round and round,
Twirl your fingers in the air.

Floating gently to the ground.
Crouch down slowly.

Little pumpkin, round and bright,
Big circle again.

Smiling in the autumn light.
Smile and wave.

Verse 2: Friendly Ghost

Friendly ghost goes floating by,
Float your arms like a ghost.

Waving at the autumn sky,
Wave up high.

Not a scary ghost at all,
Shake your head and smile.

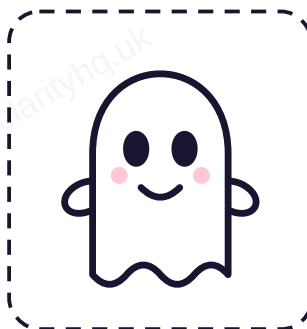
Whispers "boo!" so soft and small.
Hands round your mouth, whisper "boo".

Friendly ghost goes floating by,
Float your arms.

Waving at the autumn sky.
Wave goodbye.

Picture cards

Adult: cut out the cards (or point to them). Hold one up and the children sing that friend's verse or do the action.



Bonus chant: Crunch the Leaves

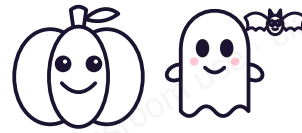
To the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush":

This is the way we crunch the leaves, crunch the leaves, crunch the leaves. This is the way we crunch the leaves, so early in the morning.

More verses: put on our hats · stir the soup · flap like bats · count to five (1, 2, 3, 4, 5!)

Colour the Pumpkin

Use chunky crayons. Any colours are fine!



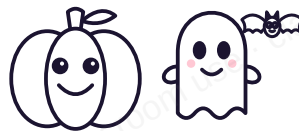
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Adult: talk about colours as they work. "What colour is a pumpkin? What colour are autumn leaves? Can you find red, yellow and brown?"



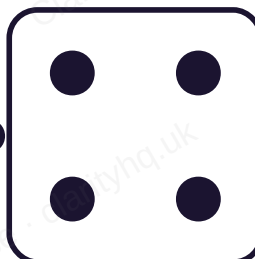
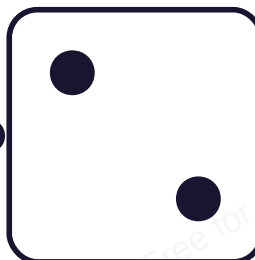
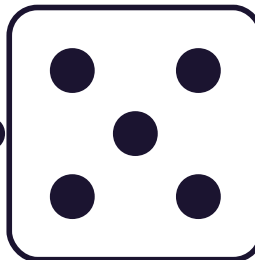
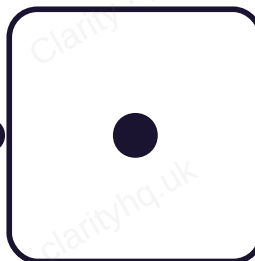
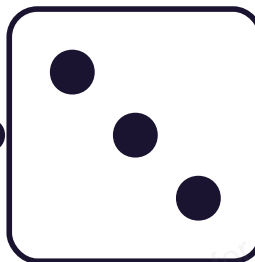
Count the Pumpkins

Count the pumpkins in each row. Draw a line to the card with the same number of dots.



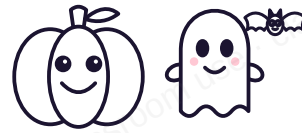
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Adult: touch and count each pumpkin out loud together, then trace the line from dot to dot with a finger before using a crayon. Try it first with toy pumpkins or big building blocks.



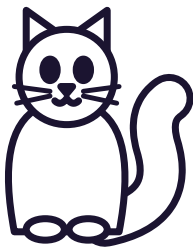
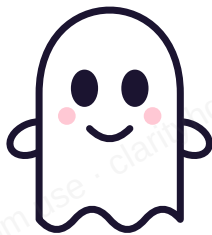
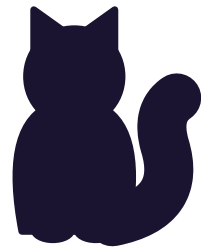
Match the Shadow

Who made each shadow? Draw a line from each friend to its shadow.



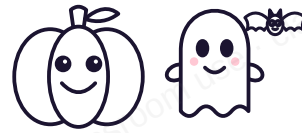
AGES
3-5

Adult: name each friend first: Pip the pumpkin, Boo the ghost, Tam the cat, Bibi the bat. Ask, "Which shadow has pointy ears? Which one has wings?"



Big, Middle, Small

Look, point and sort.



AGES
3-5

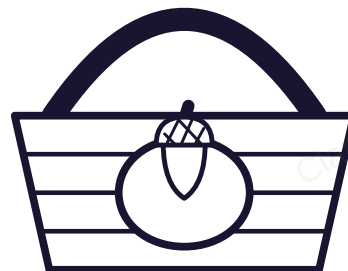
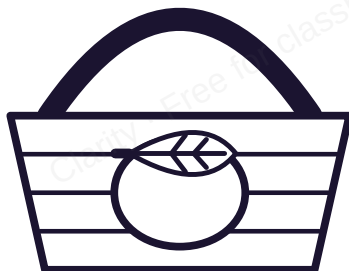
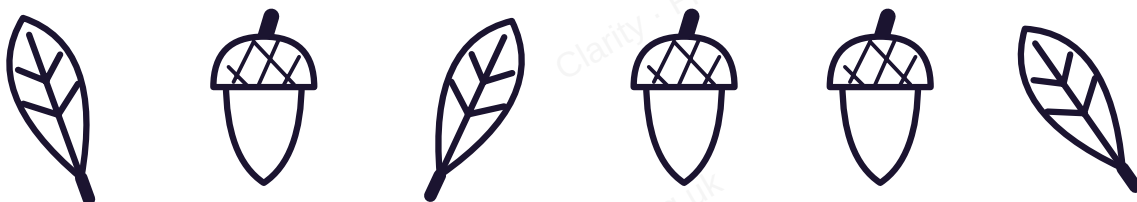
Big, middle and small pumpkins

Adult: "Point to the **biggest** pumpkin. Now the **smallest**. Colour the **middle-sized** one." Try lining up three real pumpkins or teddies too.



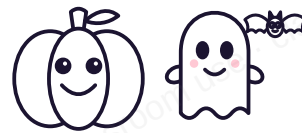
Leaf or acorn?

Adult: "Draw a line from each **leaf** to the leaf basket and each **acorn** to the acorn basket." Count them together: how many leaves? How many acorns?



Sensory & Play Ideas

Hands-on play to go with the pack. Adults set up and supervise.



AGES
3-5



Pumpkin explore

An adult cuts the top off, away from the children. Children look, smell and feel inside with spoons and scoops. Talk: slimy, cold, stringy! Wash hands after. Supervise closely: seeds are a choking risk.



Autumn tray

A tray of leaves, big pine cones, conkers and bark, with tongs, cups and magnifiers. Sort, count and crunch. Supervise closely: conkers and acorns are choking risks and not for eating.



Dressing-up corner

Hats, capes, crowns and animal ears. Nothing over the eyes and no long trailing parts. Children choose, and nobody has to dress up.



Torch shadows

Hang a white sheet and shine a torch. Hold up cut-out pumpkins, cats and bats. Can the children guess each shadow? Make big and small shadows. Never shine the torch into eyes.



Pumpkin dough

Orange dough with pumpkin cutters and rolling pins. Make five pumpkins, then squash them! Check allergy records first: homemade dough usually contains wheat, so use a gluten-free recipe if needed.



Move like the friends

Creep like Tam the cat, flap like Bibi the bat, float like Boo, roll like Pip. Play gentle music and freeze when it stops.



Battery lantern glow

Put battery tea lights inside paper lanterns in a dark den. No real candles, and check battery covers are secure. Talk about light and dark, and keep it calm and cosy.



Leaf printing

Paint the back of big leaves and press them onto paper. Look at the patterns. Use washable paint and aprons.

Words to use while they play

crunchy

smooth

bumpy

slimy

round

heavy

light

big

small

orange

brown

yellow

one, two, three, four, five

same

different

Remember: follow your setting's risk assessment, check allergy records before any food or dough play, and give families a heads-up about messy days.



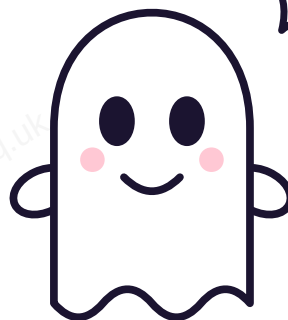
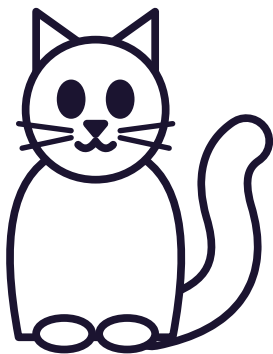
Well done!

This certificate is for

(name)

for super pumpkin fun!

I listened to a story, sang a song, counted to 5, matched shadows and sorted things.



Date

From

Colour in the stars and friends!