

Circle Time Lessons

Unit Overview

Day 1 Introduction - Halloween

Introduce the new unit: **Halloween**
Take a poll about students' favorite part of Halloween. Sing a silly song.

Day 2 Costumes

Sort objects into categories: real & make-believe. Play a Halloween grid game.

Day 3 Jack-O-Lanterns

Play a spinner game to express emotions.
Play a number recognition carpet game.

Day 4 Candy

Sort and graph types of candy. Play "5 Sweet Candies" chip clip game.

Day 5 Trick-or-Treat

Discuss safety practices while trick-or-treating. Play Halloween "Simon Says" and "I Spy" games.

Introduction

Activate Background Knowledge

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31st. Many people dress up in costumes, go to parties, and eat candy to celebrate.

Objectives:

- The students will express themselves with words and sentences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

Activities:

- Show the real life photographs. Discuss that Halloween occurs on October 31st each year and find it on the classroom calendar. What day is it on this year?
- Brainstorm different things that are associated with Halloween: costumes, candy, trick-or-treating, parties, etc. Take a poll, "What is your favorite thing about Halloween?" Students can use post-it notes or name cards to respond on a pocket chart or bar graph.
- Sing the song, "Preschool's Number One."

Extension Idea: Make a memory tray with 6 small Halloween related items. Show the tray, then remove one item and have the students guess what is missing. <http://www.playtolearnpreschool.com/2014/10/01/halloween/>

What is your favorite thing about Halloween?

Preschool's Number One

Movs

Wayes

Day 1 lesson plans

Costumes

Make Believe

A costume is any type of clothing worn to make someone look like another person, animal, or thing. On Halloween, you can see many costumes ranging from cute animals to detailed robots and more!

Objectives:

- The students will sort items by property.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

- Show the real life photographs. Encourage discussion regarding costumes the students may have worn.
- Bring in a variety of costumes. Ask students to sort the costumes based on if they are things that are real, or things that are make-believe. Picture cards are also included, if needed.
- Play the Halloween grid game.

Which one is missing?

Day 2 lesson plans

Jack-O-Lanterns

Pumpkin Faces

Carving a pumpkin is a very old tradition. When a face is carved into a pumpkin, it is called a Jack-O-Lantern. Some people carve detailed designs into their pumpkins and display them on their doorstep at Halloween.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

- Label the real pictures of the Jack-o-lanterns. Ask the students if they have ever carved a pumpkin. Display a real Jack-o-lantern and ask the students to talk about the colors, texture, and smell.
- Read the "Pumpkin Faces" poem, then spin the wheel and cut out the motion.
- Play the Jack-O-Lantern carpet game.

Extension Idea: Cut pumpkin shapes from orange construction paper. Cut triangles, squares, and circles out of black paper. Place them on the table for the students to make their own Jack-o-lantern faces. If no more information here: <http://www.playtolearnpreschool.com/2014/10/01/halloween/>

Pumpkin Faces!
Pumpkin, pumpkin,
How do you feel?
Turn the other
Way!

To Play the Game:

- Line up the numbers of the pumpkin. Use the right number of cards for your students.
- Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the cards under one of the pumpkins and recite the poem to that's.
- Children guess where the cards is hidden by identifying the number.

Day 3 lesson plans

Candy

Sweet Treats

Candy is a delicious treat that many people eat on Halloween. Even though healthy foods like fruits and vegetables are enjoyed every day, candy is something that can be enjoyed once in a while as a special treat.

Objectives:

- The students will sort items by property.
- The students will count one-to-5 and make combinations of objects to create a set.

Activities:

- Show the real life photographs. Discuss different types of candies and the student's favorite types of candy.
- Have each student bring in a small bag of candy or provide a mix of individually wrapped candy. Ask students to sort the candy by type, size, color, or another attribute that works well for your class. Graph each on the grapher. Picture cards, if needed. Additional information the classroom can be found <http://www.playtolearnpreschool.com/2014/10/01/halloween/>

"5 Sweet Candies"
The bucket as the poem

Candy Graph

Day 4 lesson plans

Trick-or-Treat

Safety and Manners

Trick-or-Treating is a tradition where children dress up and knock on neighbors' doors and say "Trick or Treat." Trick-or-treating is an excellent opportunity to teach young children safety and manners.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will follow oral directions.

Activities:

- Show the real life pictures and ask the children what they see. Practice possible dialogues between the trick-or-treaters and the people giving out the candy.
- Play "Simon Says" with the students using the movement cards and other situations possibly seen on Halloween night.
- Play "I Spy" with Halloween objects around the room. Use the provided cards if desired. Take the opportunity to talk about safe crossing of streets and playing with a grownup.

Extension Idea: Create and send home the recording sheet for students to have a conversation with their parents while they are trick-or-treating.

Simon Says

I Spy

Day 5 lesson plans

Introduction

Activate Background Knowledge

Day 1
lesson
plans

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31st. Many people dress up in costumes, go to parties, and eat candy to celebrate.

Objectives:

- The students will express themselves with words and sentences.
- The students will play with words, sounds, and rhymes.

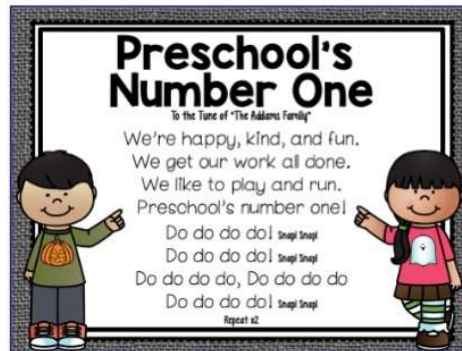
Activities:

1. Show the real life photographs. Discuss that Halloween occurs on October 31st each year and find it on the classroom calendar. What day is it on this year?
2. Brainstorm different things that are associated with Halloween: costumes, candy, trick-or-treating, parties, etc. Take a poll, "What is your favorite thing about Halloween?" Students can use post-it notes or name cards to respond on a pocket chart or bar graph.
3. Sing the song, "Preschool's Number One."



Extension Idea:

Make a memory tray with 4-5 small Halloween related items. Show the tray, then remove one item and have the students guess what is missing.
<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/memory-trays/>



What is your favorite thing about Halloween?

 I like wearing costumes.	 I like going trick-or-treating.	 I like eating candy.	 I like going to parties.
Mavis	John	Martha	Wanda
Wayne	Griffin	Frank	
Eunice			

Costumes

Make Believe

Day 2
lesson
plans

A costume is any type of clothing worn to make someone look like another person, animal, or thing. On Halloween, you can see many costumes ranging from cute animals to detailed robots and more!

Objectives:

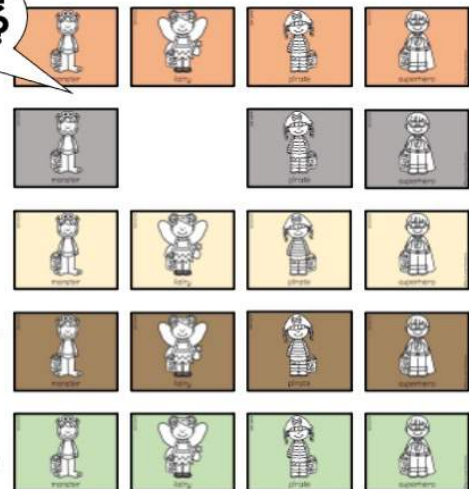
- The students will sort items by property.
- The students will notice and extend simple patterns.

Activities:

1. Show the real life photographs. Encourage discussion regarding costumes the students may have worn.
2. Bring in a variety of costumes. Ask students to sort the costumes based on if they are things that are real, or things that are make-believe. Picture cards are also included, if needed.
3. Play the Halloween grid game.



Which one is missing?



Extension Idea:

Invite the students to wear their costumes to school and have a Halloween parade around the classroom.



To Play:

1. Copy template page onto 5 different colors of paper.
2. Create a grid where each column has the same item, and each row is the same color. Discuss the pattern and relationship of the cards.
3. Students close their eyes while the teacher removes 1 card.
4. Students use their knowledge of patterns to determine which card (color and picture) is missing.

Jack-O-Lanterns

Pumpkin Faces

Day 3
lesson
plans

Carving a pumpkin is a very old tradition. When a face is carved into a pumpkin, it is called a jack-o-lantern. Some people carve detailed designs into their pumpkins and display them on their doorstep at Halloween.

Objectives:

- The students will use new vocabulary.
- The students will identify numbers.

Activities:

1. Look at the real pictures of the jack-o-lanterns. Ask the students if they have ever carved a pumpkin. Display a real jack-o-lantern and ask the students to talk about the colors, texture, and smell.
2. Read the "Pumpkin Faces!" poem, then spin the wheel and act out the motion.
3. Play the jack-o-lantern carpet game.

A Jack-o-lantern is a hollowed out pumpkin with a carved face and a candle inside.



Pumpkin Faces!

Pumpkin, pumpkin,
Show us how you feel.
Turn the spinner
On the wheel!



Extension Idea: Cut pumpkins shapes from orange construction paper. Cut triangles, squares, and circles out of black paper. Place them on the table for the students to make their own jack-o-lantern faces. Find more information here:

<https://playtolearnpreschool.us/easy-jack-o-lanterns/>

To Play the Game:

- Line up the pictures of the pumpkins. Pick the right number of cards for your students. Identify the numbers together.
- Hide the candle under one of the pumpkins and recite the poem to find it.
- Children guess where the candle is hiding by identifying the number.

Jack-O-Lantern

Jack-o-lantern,
Jack-o-lantern,
Where's your light?



Pick a number.
Let's see if you're right.

Candy

Sweet Treats

Day 4
lesson
plans

Candy is a sweet treat that many people collect on Halloween. Even though healthy foods like fruits and vegetables are enjoyed every day, candy is something that can be enjoyed once in a while as a special treat.

Objectives:

- The students will sort items by property.
- The students will count sets to 5 and make combinations of objects to create a set.

Activities:

1. Show the real life photographs. Discuss different types of candies and the students' favorite types of candy.
2. Have each student bring in a small bag of candy or provide a mix of individually-wrapped candy. Ask students to sort the candy by type, size, color, or another attribute that works well for your class. Graph the candy as a bar graph on the carpet. Picture cards and labels are included if needed. Additional information on using bar graphs in the classroom can be found here: <https://playtolearnpreschool.us/bar-graphs-for-preschoolers/>
3. Recite the chip clip poem, "5 Sweet Candies." Remove a candy from the bucket as the poem counts down.

Extension Idea:

Send home the "How to Brush Your Teeth" direction sheet.



*Always be mindful of classroom allergies.

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Trick-or-Treat

Safety and Manners

Day 5
lesson
plans

Trick or Treating is a tradition where children dress up and knock on neighbors' doors and say "Trick or Treat." Trick or treating is an excellent opportunity to teach young children safety and manners.

Objectives:

- The students will apply previous knowledge to new experiences.
- The students will follow oral directions.

Activities:

1. Show the real life pictures and ask the children what they see. Practice possible dialogues between the trick or treaters and the people giving out the candy.
2. Play "Simon Says" with the students using the movement cards and other situations possibly seen on Halloween night.
3. Play "I Spy" with Halloween objects around the room. Use the provided cards if desired. Take the opportunity to talk about safe crossing of streets and staying with a grown-up.



Friends like to dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating in groups.



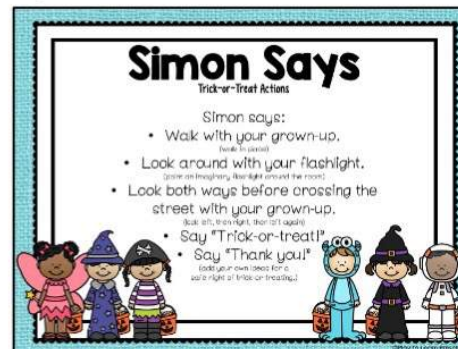
dress up as

trick-or-treating with a grown-up.



When you are trick-or-treating, remember to say please and thank you.

Extension Idea: Copy and send home the recording sheet for students to have a scavenger hunt with their parents while they are trick-or-treating.



Centers

- Visual Discrimination
- Initial Sounds
- Count & Clip Cards
- Line Tracing
- Patterning
- Book List (recommendations)

Visual Discrimination

File Folder Game

Objective: The students will use visual discrimination skills to match the pictures.

Preparation: Copy the picture cards. Glue the large pictures (first 2 pages) inside a file folder. Cut and laminate the smaller pictures.

Procedure: Students place matching pictures together.

Initial Sounds

Writing Practice

Objective: The students will draw and imitate the act of writing.

Preparation: Copy each page and place it into a plastic sleeve.

Procedure: Students use a dry erase marker to trace the first letter of each word.

Line Tracing

Objective: The students will understand the purpose of writing.

Preparation: Print and laminate the tracing cards. Another option is to place them inside a plastic sleeve. Provide dry erase markers. (Glue a pom-pom onto the lid of the marker for the students to use as an eraser.)

Procedure: The students will trace the dotted lines from left to right to practice fine motor skills.

Count and Clip Cards

Objective: Students will practice one-to-one correspondence and number recognition to 12.

Preparation: Print the cards, mat, laminate and cut apart.

Procedure: Students count the pictures on each card and mark the corresponding number with a clothes pin.

Helpful Hint: For easy self-checking, put a sticker on the back that will match the clothes pin if the answer is correct.

Patterning

Objective: The students will identify and extend simple patterns.

Preparation: Print the pattern cards and pieces, mat, laminate and cut apart.

Procedure: Students identify the pattern and extend it by placing the next correct piece.