

CIRCLE TIME IDEAS

~OCTOBER~



October is jam packed! National Family Week, Canadian Library Month; with Thanksgiving and Halloween right around the corner!

Thanksgiving is a time for tradition, sharing, gathering with family, and giving thanks for all we have. Halloween is also a great time to spend with family and friends.

Note: Please be mindful of the families in your group. Not all families celebrate typical North American holidays such as Halloween. Be thoughtful in your selection of songs, rhymes & books throughout the holiday seasons.

SONGS & RHYMES

This Old Road

This old road is hard and bumpy,
Five fat turkeys are wild and jumpy,
Driver, Driver! Not so jerky!
Or you'll make us lose a turkey
Driver, Driver! Stop I say!
One fat turkey got away!

This old road is hard and bumpy,
Four fat turkeys are wild and jumpy,
Driver, Driver! Not so jerky!
Or you'll make us lose a turkey
Driver, Driver! Stop I say!
One fat turkey got away!

...Three fat turkeys ...

...Two fat turkeys....

This old road is hard and bumpy,
One fat turkey is wild and jumpy,
Driver, Driver! Not so jerky!
Or you'll make us lose a turkey
Driver, Driver! Stop I say!
Let's save this one for Thanksgiving Day!

Let's Be Thankful

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Let's be thankful for this day
For our friends and for our play.
Let's be thankful; let's be glad
For the food and things we have.
Let's give thanks for you and me
And for our home and our family.



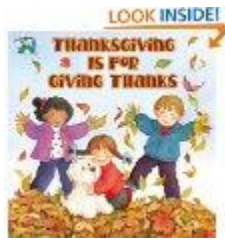
Thank You Song

Thank you for the sun so bright,
Thank you for the moon at night,
Thank you for my family,
Thanks for friends who play with me,
Thanks for everything I see,
I am thankful, yes Sir-ee!

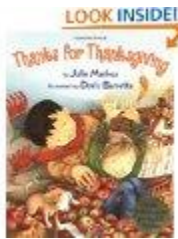
<p>Ghost Chant *Recite very quietly!</p> <p>Ghost so scary. Ghost so white Don't scare (child's name)! (Shout the name.) On Halloween night!</p>	<p>We're Not Afraid (Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)</p> <p>Ghosts and goblins, cats and bats, We're not afraid of this or that! We know they are make-believe, Funny costumes on Hallow's Eve. Ghosts and goblins, cats and bats, We're not afraid of this or that!</p>
<p>Here We Come to Trick or Treat (Tune: Mary Had a Little Lamb)</p> <p>Here we come to trick or treat, trick or treat, trick or treat. Here we come to trick or treat, knocking on your door. Please give us some candy sweet, candy sweet, candy sweet. Please give us some candy sweet, and we will say Thank You! We wish you a Happy Halloween, Happy Halloween, Happy Halloween! We wish you a Happy Halloween! Then we will scare you..... (shout) BOO!</p>	<p>Three Little Witches</p> <p>One little, two little, three little witches. (Hold up 1,2,3 fingers) Fly over haystacks, fly over ditches. (Make flying motion with hands) Fly over moonbeams without any hitches. (Make flying motion with opposite hand.) Hey, Ho, Halloween Night! (Clap)</p> <p>One little, two little, three little witches. (Hold up 1,2,3 fingers) Fly over barb wire and tore there britches. (Make flying motion with one hand, then turn and show your "torn britches") Had to go home and get some stitches. (Pretend to sew) Hey, Ho, Halloween Night! (Clap)</p>



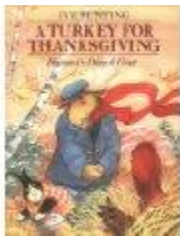
BOOK SUGGESTIONS



Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks
By Margaret Sutherland



Thanks for Thanksgiving
By Julie Markes



A Turkey for Thanksgiving
By Eve Bunting



Halloween Jack
By Roger Priddy



Jack and Jill -
A Halloween Nursery Rhyme
By Salina Yoon

SNACK IDEAS

Note: Always be aware of food allergies of all participants!

Rotten Teeth Apple Slice (a spin on last month's idea!)

Cut an unpeeled red apple into 2 wedges to look like a smile. Dip miniature marshmallow in chocolate to make "rotten teeth". Add "teeth" in between the 2 apple slices.

Witches' Brew

Pour 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin into a bowl. Add 2 cups boiling water. Stir until gelatin is dissolved. Add one 6 ounce can of unsweetened frozen apple juice concentrate. Pour mixture into clear lightly greased plastic cups. Have children drop gummy worms and flies (raisins) into the brew. Chill for a couple of hours.

Popcorn Pumpkins

Melt ¼ cup of margarine and a small bag of mini marshmallows on high for 1-2 min. Stir in a box of orange Jell-O mix. Pour over 12 cups of popped popcorn. Have the children grease their hands well and form the popcorn into the shape of a pumpkin.

ART & CRAFT IDEAS

Note: Best practice is to allow children to express their own creativity without using patterns.

Thanksgiving Wreath

Cut half a circle in the middle of the paper plate. Gather leaves and glue on to the rim of the paper plate. On the semi-circle, write "I am thankful for _____". Have the children write what they are thankful for. Share with the rest of the group.

Supplies needed:

- **White Paper Plate**
- **Construction Paper**
- **Leaves**
- **Scissors**
- **Glue**
- **Crayons or Markers**

Gauze Ghost

Mix white glue with water. Dip gauze sheets into glue/water mixture and hang over soda bottle (turned upside down) and let dry. Shape gauze into a ghostly figure. When dry, remove bottle and add black eyes and mouth cut from felt or craft paper. Hang from a string or display for a spooky decoration.

Supplies needed:

- **Gauze**
- **White Glue**
- **Empty Soda Bottle**
- **Googly eyes or black felt or craft paper**

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Activity #1: Pumpkin Patch

Have children find places in the room and crouch down to look like pumpkins. Program Leader begins by walking around the room saying:

"Pumpkin Patch, Pumpkin Patch. I'm looking for a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch. Here's one nice and big, turn into a jack-o-lantern just like that!"

Leader stops and taps the child closest to her on the word "that". Child then gets up and joins the leader by the hand and repeats the activity until all the children have been found.

Activity #2: Halloween Twister

This puts a Halloween spin on the game, Twister. Take an old white sheet or tablecloth. Glue rows of pictures of witch hats, pumpkins, ghosts and black cats. A fun way for teaching the children left and right!

Activity #3: Mummy Wrap

Have the children form two groups. Each group chooses one child to be the mummy. The rest of the children try to create a mummy by wrapping the child in toilet paper. Be sure to give every child a turn!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Tips for a Healthy Halloween

"Healthy" and "Halloween" don't usually go in the same sentence! Soon you will be visited by little witches, superheroes, and vampires in search of treats! Treats are a part of the tradition; however, treats don't always need to be candy. Here are some other options to consider this year:

Fruit roll-ups	Finger puppets
Granola bars	Stickers
Box of raisins	Rubber spiders
Gold fish packages	Tattoos
Cheese and cracker packages	Yo-yos
Sugar free gum	Balls
Juice boxes	