



Inside A Pumpkin

Ages 1 year to 2 years

Objective: The child is able to use tactile awareness through exploring inside a real pumpkin, and begins to understand cause and effect when doing so.

Materials needed:

DO NOT DO THIS ACTIVITY IF YOUR CHILD IS ALLERGIC TO A REAL PUMPKIN, SEEDS, OR PULP

A real pumpkin (big or small) Cut it open on top large enough for your child to be able to reach their hands in and feel the inside of it

Procedures:

1. Sit with your child in their highchair for this activity wearing old clothes or go shirtless; for this activity may get messy! If preferred, lay down a large towel or blanket, and sit with your child outside with the pumpkin.
2. Put the cut open pumpkin down in front of you and your child. **Cause:** cut open pumpkin **Effect:** what they feel inside
3. Model what it is you want them to do first. Reach your hand inside feeling around. Use words to describe what it is your doing and feeling.



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Such as: "Mommy is feeling a pumpkin. It feels wet, gooey, sticky, or slimy."

4. Encourage your child to reach their hand in and feel the inside. Let them feel the seeds and the pulp. Say the name of what it is they are feeling to build language development. Ask child to repeat you.
5. Allow child to feel and discover on their own inside the pumpkin. Take some of the inside pulp and seeds out and put on the highchair tray, or ground wherever you are at doing this activity. Allow for self-exploration using their senses.
6. Your child may try to put this in their mouth, pull their hand away and re-direct to feel. You can even dip their feet in the pumpkin pulp to allow for tactile learning on different parts of their body.

Milestones to meet:

The child can use their hands while building tactile awareness. The child begins learning cause & effect.

Evaluation:

Did this lesson work for your child? Why or why not?