



Inside A Pumpkin

Ages 2 years to 3 years

Objective: The child is able to exploring inside a real pumpkin, count pumpkin seeds, and understands 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 your child at a kid-friendly table wearing old clothes; 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. **TEACH: Cause**-cut open pumpkin **Effect**-what they feel inside
3. Model and explain to them what it is you want for them to do. Reach your hand inside feeling around. Use words to describe what it is your doing and feeling.



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Such as telling your child: "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. Ask child to tell you what they feel.

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 table, or ground wherever you are at doing this activity. Allow for self-exploration using their senses.

6. Have child count the seeds with you. How many did the pumpkin have all together inside of it?

Milestones to meet:

The child can use their hands while building tactile awareness. The child can use words to describe how something feels to them. The child begins understanding cause & effect. The child can count up to #10 with help.

Evaluation:

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