

## October is National Fire Prevention Month

This provides a terrific opportunity to involve your local community members. Invite a firefighter to come to your class to talk about the equipment they use, the clothes they wear, and valuable fire safety tips. If a visit cannot be arranged, write a class letter to your local fire station. What questions do children have for firefighters? Include their questions and comments in the letter.

### Preventing Fires at Home

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Chart paper and marker

#### Learning Experiences:

Encourage children to think of ways they can help prevent fires around their homes. Print exactly what they say on chart paper. You may want to help children by providing some of the examples listed below. After sharing, read the chart back to them.

- Keep clothing off lamps.
- Only adults should touch radiators or heaters.
- Only adults should use matches, lighters, or candles.
- Only adults should use electrical cords or plug things into sockets.
- Turn off electrical equipment when you are done using it.
- Make sure all electrical cords are in good shape and not damaged.
- Only adults should use the stove or oven.



## Pumpkin Parts

(Taken from [Curriculum for Threes, Skin Covers Many Things](#))

#### Materials and Preparations:

- Pumpkins
- Chart paper and marker

#### Learning Experiences:

- Share that pumpkins are fruits. What do children know about pumpkins?
- Make a list of words that describe the pumpkin's skin. Encourage children to feel the pumpkin. Write down their descriptions (smooth, round, cool, bumpy, etc.).
- Remove the top of the pumpkin. Show the thickness of the pumpkin skin. Invite children to reach in and feel around. They might want to put some of the insides into a bowl or tray. Write down children's descriptions about the inside of the pumpkin (slimy, stringy, smelly, etc.).
- Display the pumpkin and the lists for further sharing and discovery.



You may wish to visit the [Relax, Recharge, Revive](#) section of the newsletter to view a pumpkin seed recipe to further extend this experience.



## Classroom Energizers

Do you have a helpful classroom tip? It could be a way to communicate with families, manage transitions, save planning time, or other useful idea that works for you. Or, maybe you'd like to show us our curriculum in action in your classroom! Share your ideas with us and you could win a \$25 HighReach Learning gift certificate. Just email your ideas to [classroomenergizers@highreach.com](mailto:classroomenergizers@highreach.com). We will feature submitted entries each month in the Idea Toolbox.

## Apple Graph

(Taken from [Curriculum for Pre-K, Harvest Time](#))

### Materials and Preparations:

- Bite-sized apple pieces (from at least 3 different apple varieties)
- Sticky notes (label with children's names)
- Chart paper and marker (separate into columns to match number of apple varieties; Label top of each column with apple type in words and colors)

### Learning Experiences:

- Provide sticky notes with children's names on them and ask children to place their names besides the apples they think they will prefer.
- Invite children to taste at least three different apple varieties. Encourage them to use all their senses with each apple type. How do the apples smell? look? feel? taste? sound when being eaten?
- Were their predictions correct? Which apples did they prefer? Help children move their sticky notes to their favorite apple column on the chart paper.
- Analyze the data by helping children count which apple received the most votes.

**Adaptation:** If other produce is in season or more common in your region, use that fruit or vegetable instead.

## Autumn Mural

### Materials and Preparations:

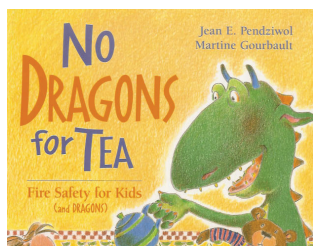
- Butcher paper (at least 3 feet long)
- Paint, paintbrushes, markers, crayons, glue
- Paper bags

### Learning Experiences:

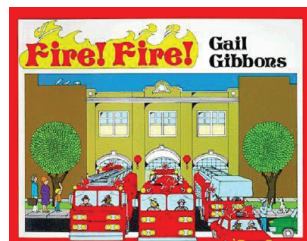
- Take children on a nature walk. Encourage them to collect items in nature that interest them (leaves, acorns, twigs, etc.).
- Invite children to draw and/or paint to create an autumn mural on the butcher paper. What changes have they noticed since summer ended? Are leaves changing colors? Are there new plants growing? Have they needed to wear different clothes? Encourage children to illustrate these changes on their mural.
- Ask children to add items they found in nature to the mural once it's dry. Gluing found nature items will add another dimension of texture to the mural.
- Discuss the finished piece together. What do they see? Encourage children to describe all scenes of the mural.

**Note:** This project may be completed over several days. Allow plenty of time for children to work on the mural as they are interested.

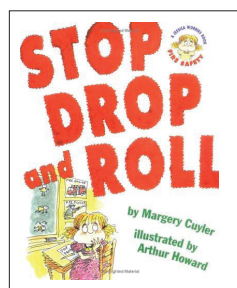
## Books to Share



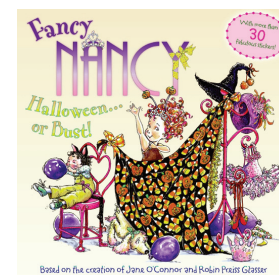
*No Dragons for Tea* by Jean E. Pendziwol



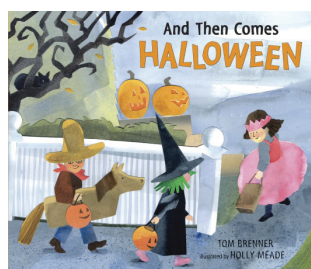
*Fire! Fire!* by Gail Gibbons



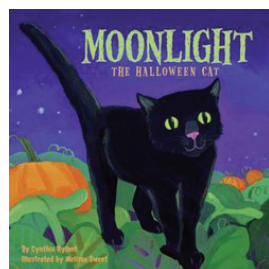
*Stop Drop and Roll* by Margery Cuyler



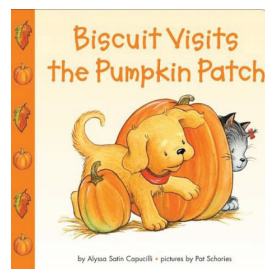
*Fancy Nancy: Halloween... or Bust!* by Jane O'Connor



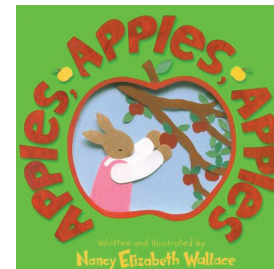
*And Then Comes Halloween* by Tom Brenner



*Moonlight: The Halloween Cat* by Cynthia Rylant



*Biscuit Visits the Pumpkin Patch* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli



*Apples, Apples, Apples* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace