

October Is Fire Prevention Month

Children can brainstorm ways to prevent 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 children say on chart paper. You may want to help them by providing some of the examples listed below. After sharing, read the chart back to children.

- 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.
- Only adults should make sure all electrical cords are in good shape and not damaged.
- Only adults should use the stove or oven.



Practice Staying Low

Materials and Preparations:

- Parachute or large bed sheet

Learning Experiences:

Share the concept of staying close to the ground to prevent being hurt by smoke.

- Encourage interested children to stand and hold the edges of a parachute or large bed sheet. Explain that they should gently shake the parachute up and down, pretending it is smoke.
- Invite children to listen for their names. When they hear their names called, children should crawl underneath the moving sheet to show that they can stay low in case of fire and smoke.

Diwali – October 17, 2009

Diwali, or festival of lights, is a very popular five-day event in India. Customs and traditions vary according to local beliefs. Some widespread customs include decorating with small oil lamps, candles, or colored electric lights; thoroughly cleaning homes; giving gifts; watching fireworks; and eating sweets. *Diyas* (small earthen lamps that hold oil or a candle, used specifically during Diwali) are considered to be the lighted pathway of a person's expression of happiness and also a symbol for giving thanks to a higher power for attainment of health, prosperity, knowledge, financial security, and peace in one's life.

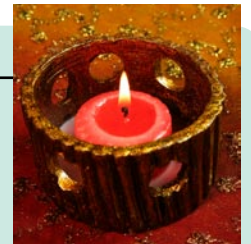
Make a Diya

Materials and Preparations:

- Self-hardening clay
- Nontoxic tempura paint
- Paintbrushes
- Tea-light or votive candles (for sizing only)
- *Lighting a Lamp: A Diwali Story* by Jonny Zucker

Learning Experiences:

- Diyas are an important symbol of Diwali. Invite children to make a diya using the self-hardening clay.
- Share the story of *Lighting a Lamp: A Diwali Story* with children.
- Show children the tea-light or votive candles. Encourage them to mold the clay so the candles fit inside their diyas.
- Allow diyas to air-dry overnight.
- Invite children to decorate their diyas with paint.



Host a Pumpkin Party

Materials and Preparations:

- Pumpkins of varying shapes and sizes
- Scale
- Fabric tape measure
- Bucket filled with water
- Baking sheet
- Chart paper and marker
- Stickers
- Knife (adult-use only)

Learning Experiences:

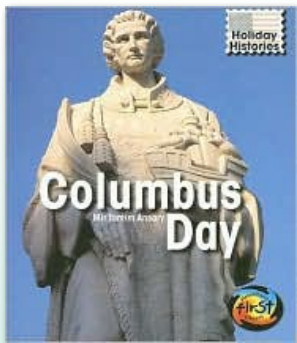
Children can learn all about pumpkins through these investigations. Encourage children to explore pumpkins through their weights, sizes, and seeds.

- Invite children to predict how much each pumpkin will weigh. Which will weigh the most? the least? Record their responses on chart paper. Weigh each pumpkin and record the results on the chart paper.
- Provide children with a tape measure. Ask them to predict how tall each pumpkin is and how many inches around. You may also want to incorporate nontraditional measurement such as hands, fingers, blocks, or stickers (to measure around the widest part of the pumpkin).
- Using a bucket of water, encourage children to predict whether they think each pumpkin will sink or float. Record their predictions on the chart paper. Gently place each pumpkin in the bucket of water, one at a time, and record the findings.
- Invite children to explore the inside of each pumpkin. What do they find? How many seeds do they think are in there? Record guesses after cutting open the top of the pumpkin and showing the inside to children. Have them help you remove the insides, placing all the seeds on the baking sheet. Once all seeds have been removed, count them and record the results on the chart paper.

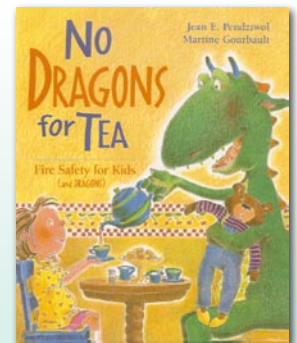
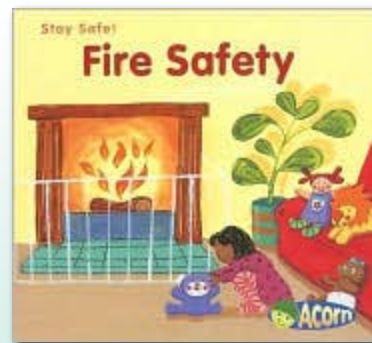
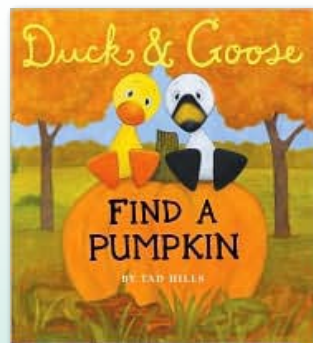
Home Extension: Invite families to participate in the pumpkin party and encourage them to bring pumpkins with them.



Books to Share for Other October Celebrations



Columbus Day
In 1492 by Jean Marzollo
Columbus Day by Mir Tamim Ansary



No Dragons for Tea by Jean E. Pendziwol
Stay Safe! Fire Safety by Sue Barraclough
Duck & Goose Find a Pumpkin by Tad Hills
This is NOT a Pumpkin by Bob Staake