

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to count and perform basic arithmetic operations using pumpkins.

Materials and Prep

- Pumpkins (real or pictures)
- Counting cards or number flashcards
- Writing materials (paper, pencils, crayons)
- Scissors (if using paper pumpkins)

Activities

1. Counting Pumpkins: Show the student a pumpkin and ask them to count how many pumpkins they see. Use counting cards or number flashcards to practice counting up to a certain number.
2. Addition and Subtraction with Pumpkins: Use the pumpkins as manipulatives to demonstrate basic addition and subtraction. For example, start with 3 pumpkins and ask the student to add 2 more. Then, remove 1 pumpkin and ask them to subtract 1. Repeat with different numbers.
3. Pumpkin Puzzles: Create simple pumpkin puzzles by drawing or printing out pumpkin shapes and cutting them into pieces. Ask the student to put the pieces together to form a complete pumpkin. This activity helps develop spatial awareness and problem-solving skills.
4. Pumpkin Math Story: Create a short math story involving pumpkins. For example, "There were 5 pumpkins in the field. 2 pumpkins were picked and taken home. How many pumpkins are left?" Ask the student to solve the problem and explain their reasoning.
5. Pumpkin Patterns: Use the pumpkins to create and extend patterns. Start with a simple pattern (e.g., orange, orange, green, orange, orange, green) and ask the student to continue the pattern. Encourage them to create their own patterns as well.

Preschool Grade Talking Points

- "Pumpkins are big, round fruits that come in different colors."
- "We can count how many pumpkins there are by saying the numbers in order."
- "We can use pumpkins to learn how to add and take away."
- "We can make puzzles with pumpkins by cutting them into pieces and putting them back together."
- "We can make up stories about pumpkins and solve math problems in the stories."
- "We can make patterns with pumpkins by repeating colors or shapes."