

**Halloween Games:** these games have been cut & paste from various websites that I listed in the links section of the WLI teachers page. There are more games if you want to check out the sites directly. I just put together a list of what I thought were the better games.

**Pumpkin Bowling:** Get a hold of 4-6 plastic pumpkin buckets and a small ball (plastic bowling balls are perfect). Stack the pumpkins in a pyramid on a hard surface and let the kids bowl to their hearts' content! Assign a little helper to assist you with picking up the pumpkins and stacking them. This was a big hit with the kindergartners!

**Spider Toss** : We were looking for a different take on the bean bag toss, so I made a game out of a cardboard box, some fabric scraps, and fabric paint. Basically, kids throw spider beanbags into a "web" with holes.

**Web Box:** The easiest way to make this is to spray paint the box black, paint on a web with with 3-dimensional fabric paint, and then go back and cut 5 or 6 holes between the webbing, evenly spaced around the spider web.

**Spider bean bags:** Cut two circles of black fabric and 8 little spider legs for each spider. Pin circles right sides together, pin top of 4 legs to each side (right and left sides) of spider body, remembering to pin the top of the leg to the outer edges to be sewn (don't pin the foot there). Stitch around edges, leaving a 2 inch opening for turning. Turn the spider body right side out, making sure all of the legs have been stitched on correctly. Fill with dried beans and slipstitched closed.

**Face Painting:** Paint a spider, a pumpkin or a ghost on their cheek-kids love this!

**Ghost Guess** : Kids are divided into two groups. One group goes out in to the hall and a mom puts a sheet over him/her. They then go back into the classroom and the other group of kids has to guess who is under the sheet!

**Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin** : Pin the nose on the donkey Halloween style. Easy to make with felt and Velcro.

**Mummy Wrap-** a big hit with older kids, but requires lots of toilet paper! Divide kids into teams of 2. One person stands still while to other wraps them in toilet paper as a mummy at the start signal. Kids are given 2 minutes or so to wrap their friend up, first team to win gets a prize. Then, the wrapped-up kids burst out of their wrappings and it's their turn to wrap up their buddy. Have the kids help clean up the toilet paper. We did this to the "Monster Mash" song, it was a big hit!

**Ghost Bingo-**Make bingo cards from poster board but instead the word bingo, put "ghost". If you really want to go all out, the kids could even have Halloween shapes that they put on the bingo card instead of the standard plastic chips or pennies. When the kids gets bingo, he calls out "ghost". Make sure there are lots of 7's and 13's on those cards!

**Boo, Boo, Ghost-** Halloween version of duck, duck goose

**Halloween Tic-Tac-Toe-**Make the tic-tac-toe cards from orange or black poster board. I like to make the tic-tac-toe pieces out of juice can lids. I paint the lids, then glue on a felt bat, ghost, spider, or pumpkin. I always save those lids (much to my husband's dismay!), so I have a ton of them. You could also have the children make their own pieces by drawing on construction paper and cutting them out.

**Musical Monster Mash-**musical chairs with spooky music. Older kids might like to do a "Monster Mash Contest" where he who dances the craziest wins! I'm partial to the Monster Mash, They're Coming to Take Me Away, and all of those other great, spooky 50's songs. "Thriller" by Michael Jackson would be a good one too.

**Messy But Fun Games-**

Try these if you have a smaller group to work with, or time to fill. They are messier than the first games, but lots of fun!

**Apple Bobbing-**old fashioned and fun, but if it involved water and kids, you know if it will be messy! Great to do outside if the weather is decent.

**Spider fishing**-Put a plastic spider and a magnet on the end of a homemade fishing pole (stick with string tied on). Fill a small bucket, washtub, or baby pool with water. Add plastic flies with paper clips attached to them, so that the magnet will pick them up. You could also just put the magnet on the end of the fishing string and attach the paper clips to cheap plastic spiders. Go fishin'!

**Spider Pinata**-Make a pinata out of paper mache! It's not that hard. Mix one part water and one part flour to make a paste. Dip newspapers in the paste, and then spread over a good-sized balloon. When the newspaper has dried, pop the balloon and cut a slit in the top for placing candy. Spray paint the body black and add legs- the can also be made out of newspaper, or toilet paper/paper towel/gift wrap tubes. You can also use cardboard or chenille bumpies (from the craft store). Open slit at top and fill with candy, taping it back up (black electrical tape shouldn't show). Hang from a tree and let the kids go at it! Just make sure they hit the pinata and not each other!

### **Mummy Wrap**

Twist your guests into a frightening frenzy with this simple game that has kids writhing with delight.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White crepe paper
- Spooky music

How to play:

Step 1: Divide the kids into teams of two and give each pair a roll of white crepe paper. Instruct one member of each team to race to wrap his partner, mummy-style, at the sound of the music (play something devilish, such as "The Monster Mash"). Kids must use up the whole roll, avoiding the head and wrapping arms separately from the torso.

Step 2: Once wrapped, the mummy hops to a finish line, holding his arms to his sides and trying not to break any of the wrapping.

Step 3: Award the winning team, reverse partners' roles and then start again with fresh rolls of crepe paper.

### **Witch's Stew**

Pucker up....this game requires skill, speed and raw straw-sucking power.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Straws
- Construction paper
- Bowl

How to play:

Step 1: Before the party, ask your kids to help you cut ten Halloween shapes, such as ghosts, bats and pumpkins from construction paper. Each shape should be about the size of a silver dollar. Place the shapes in a pile beside a small bowl.

Step 2: Using the straw as a vacuum, each contestant tries to pick up a shape and place it in the bowl to create the Witch's Stew. Time the players to see who can get all ten in the bowl the fastest.

Tips:

Cut out several sets of shapes and let the players race head to head.

## **Monster Mouth Game**

Don't be scared--this monster doesn't bite--even though the goal is to feed the monster while testing your marble shooting skills.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Shoe box or cereal box
- Paint or construction paper
- Googly eyes
- Goofy ears
- Masking tape
- Marbles

### How to play:

Step 1: Cut monster teeth out of the edge of a shoe box or cereal box and invert it so the teeth touch the table. Use paint or construction paper, googly eyes and goofy ears to decorate the box to look like a monster.

Step 2: Place the box on the ground and mark off a starting line with masking tape. Offer the kids marbles to flick into the monster's mouth. If you're playing with big kids, give each tooth a score (the smaller the hole, the higher the score). The player with the highest score wins.

## **Musical Tombstones**

A spooky variation on musical chairs, this Halloween game features creepy music and participants that tote their own tombstones.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Folding chair for each guest
- Large sheets of stiff gray paper
- Basic craft supplies
- Cassette of creepy music
- Tape player

### How to play:

Step 1: Give each child two sheets of gray paper that have been cut and stapled into the shape of a tombstone. (Each stone should be large enough to fit over the back of a folding chair.) Hand out markers, glue sticks, sparkles, scissors, construction paper and--if you've had the time--paper cutouts of Halloween creatures. Have the parties decorate their stones with creepy drawings and silly epitaphs ("Here Lies John Blake, Hit the Gas Instead of the Brake...").

Step 2: Follow the usual rules for musical chairs, except have your players carry their tombstones as they circle around the seats. When you stop the music, everyone rushes to find a chair. The player left without one is out of the game; he starts the graveyard, putting his tombstone over the back of an extra chair set to the side and sitting down. The game continues, with you removing a chair at the start of each round, until one child is left sitting with her unused tombstone and everyone else is in the graveyard.

## **Mix-and-match Pumpkin Patch**

Plain paper pumpkins are transformed into jack-o'-lanterns in this group activity.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- orange construction paper or poster board
- poster tack

How to play:

Step 1: Before the party, cut a half dozen or so pumpkins of various sizes out of orange construction paper or poster board.

Click on the following link for a printable version of the Pumpkin template. To view the .pdf file, you'll need Acrobat Reader, which is available for free from the Adobe site.

Step 2: Then use poster tack to stick them to the side of the house or a shed.

Step 3: Next, cut out paper jack-o'-lantern facial features for all of the pumpkins, varying the shapes and colors,

Click on the following links for printable versions of fun jack-o'-lantern eyes, noses, and mouths. To view the .pdf files, you'll need Acrobat Reader, which is available for free from the Adobe site.

Step 4: Place all the pieces in a large container.

Step 5: When it's time to start decorating, have everybody take turns pulling out one feature at a time and using a glue stick to attach it to any pumpkin they choose. Keep going until all the jack-o'-lanterns are complete.

Variations:

To make the activity even wackier, consider playing it blindfolded.

## **Bobbing For Donuts**

You Need:

- string
- donuts with holes (powdered or plain work best)

Gently tie a string onto the donut . Hang the donut by the string. Players then take turns holding their hands behind their backs while trying to bite the hanging donut. Each player gets his or her own donut.

*Add variety--try blindfolding players first.*

## **Worms In a Pie**

This game is great for all ages. You'll need some pie tins (1 for each person playing), gummy worms, and cool whip. Put the same amount of worms in each pie tin and cover with cool whip. Blind fold each player. Each player dips in to the pie with their mouths, trying to pull out as many worms as they can. You can either have a time limit and see who can pull out the most worms, or just set a certain amount of worms to find (I used 8). The person with the most worms at the end of the game wins. This game can get messy, but it's fun for the people playing as well as for the people watching!

### **MUSICAL GHOST**

Decorate a sock as a ghost or some other spooky Halloween creature. Fill it with candy and/or little treats. Have everyone sit in a circle and pass around the sock until the music stops. Whoever has the sock when the music stops is out. The last person remaining gets the sock with the treats inside or another prize

### **SCARECROW**

This game is composed of teams. Each team has to choose one person to be the scarecrow or person to decorate. Each team will have a bag of old clothes (shirt, overalls, gloves, oversized boots or shoes, hat, etc). As a relay, each person takes a turn reaching into a bag filled with old clothes choosing one item. He or she then runs it down the scarecrow being decorated. As soon as the scarecrow has the article of clothing completely on, that person runs back to tag the next person to grab in the bag to decorate the scarecrow. The first team to have all the articles of clothing on the scarecrow is the winner.

### **TRICK FOR A TREAT GAME**

This game was a big hit and was played with kids from 2 years old to 13 years old. Give some adults a bag with candy and a bag with slips of paper in it. On the slips of paper, write a "trick" the child has to do to get a piece of candy. We had two bags of slips, one for the older kids and one for the younger ones. The kids go to each adult to get their candy.

Some examples of the "tricks" were: Sing the ABC's to the tune of "I Love You" by Barney (It is possible!!), name 5 US Presidents, Do 10 Jumping Jacks while turning around. Make them easier for the little ones. We all had alot of fun!!

Note: We could make them spell things, answer questions in English, etc.