

Everyday and Everyway Talking about... October



October is a fun month filled with family events like Thanksgiving and Halloween. The day off at Thanksgiving gives families more time to get together and have fun. Talking about what your family does to celebrate is a chance to teach language. Halloween is a time when kids dress up and pretend. Acting like their favourite character encourages their imagination and their language skills.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Speak, sing, and talk about books with your child in your own language.



Crafts and Activities

Make a leaf collage

Trace your child's hand on a piece of paper. Make the thumb into the turkey's head and the fingers into the feathers. Add the eyes, beak, wattle and comb. Give it feet to make it wobble. Colour and decorate it any way you like.

Go for an Autumn walk and collect the treasures that have fallen to the ground.

Talk about what you have gathered. There are all sorts of colours, shapes and sizes so talk about the differences and similarities.

Roll out a large piece of wallpaper and spread the leaves out, stick them down using a glue stick.

Some of the leaves will change over a few days so it would be interesting to observe the changes.

Carve a pumpkin into a Jack-o-lantern

Let your child help you. He can scoop out the seeds. Talk about how the seeds feel in your fingers.

Draw eyes, nose and a mouth on the outside of the pumpkin.

Wash the seeds, roast them and eat them as a snack.

Make a Spider

Use pipe cleaners and one bump from an egg carton to make a spider.

Let your child draw a face on the egg carton.

Help him poke the pipe cleaners through to make 8 legs.

Talk about spiders. Ask ...
Where do they live?
How many legs do they have?
What do they like to eat?

Sing the "Incy Wincy Spider" song together!

Dress-up

Dressing up is good for your child's imagination and language skills.

Start a dress-up collection, it does not always have to be bought outfits.

- Find old shirts, dresses, hats, shoes, jackets, and play jewellery.
- Look for great dress-up clothes at a charity shop.
- Ask him who he is, what he's doing, or where he's going.

If Halloween is not part of your family, culture, or religious traditions, watch for other events in your community. Often churches, community centres, neighbourhoods, or even businesses will host "Harvest Festivals" where kids can go, play games, and have fun!

You can start your own fun traditions!



Songs and Rhymes

Want to learn more songs and rhymes? Look for a parent-child friendly music class in your area.

Autumn Leaves

Autumn leaves
The autumn leaves have fallen down
Fallen down, fallen down;
The wind he came & blew them round
And blew them around.

Let's find a brush & start to sweep,
Start to sweep, start to sweep,
And make them into a great big heap,
Into a great big heap.
(to the tune of 'London Bridge is Falling Down'.)

Five Red Squirrels

Five red squirrels bushy & sweet,
(hold up fingers of one hand)
Are looking for some nuts to keep,
(hand in front of eyes, looking all around)
One red squirrel climbs a tree,
(miming climbing)
Shuts his eyes & falls asleep,
(pretend to be asleep)
So that leaves four red squirrels
bushy & sweet, etc.

Five Little Goblins

Five Little Goblins
Five little goblins on a Halloween night
Made a very, very spooky sight.
The first one danced on his tippy-tip-toes.
The next one tumbled & bumped his nose.
The next one jumped high up in the air.
The next one walked like a fuzzy bear.
The next one sang a Halloween song.
Five goblins played the whole night long.

Incy Wincy Spider

Incy wincy spider climbed up the water spout,
Down came the rain and washed poor Incy out,
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain,
And Incy Wincy Spider climbed up the spout again.

Sing this song in different ways with an older child.
Change the Incy Wincy ... to "The big fat spider" with
a loud voice or "The teeny tiny spider" in a quiet voice.

Singing is a
great way for
kids to learn
new words.
Don't forget
to make up
actions for
songs.

Children learn
through everyday
moments.
Check out next
month's activity
page for more ideas.



Go to your local public library to find these and many more great books.

It's a pumpkin time *by Zoe Hill*

Corduroy's trick or treat *by Don Freeman*

Twas the day after Thanksgiving *by Mavis Smith*

The very busy spider *by Eric Carle*

Where is baby's pumpkin? *By Karen Katz*

Eensy weensy spider *by Heather Collins*

The itsy bitsy spider *by Lorianne Siomades*