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NEWSLETTER FALL 2025

Newsletter for Niagara County Child Care Providers, Parents & Child Advocates



The first five years of a child's life are more crucial than we often realize. Infants and toddlers are not just learning basic skills, they are also developing social skills, building relationships, and mastering things like communication and potty training.

A baby's brain starts as a blank canvas, shaped by our words, actions, and play. How we engage with them can impact their developmental milestones. Every small moment counts. Also, all children are not the same. Children hit milestones at their own pace.

Toddlers need a safe and loving environment, consistent routines, responsive interactions, opportunities for exploration and play, clear boundaries, positive reinforcement, and language stimulation to support their development in all areas, including physical, cognitive, social, and emotional skills.

School-aged children can use support from adults in many ways including love, guidance, and help with social skills. Spending time reassuring and guiding your child will allow them the freedom to grow.

Children absorb everything, whether through our actions or inaction. Interacting with children is vital for their growth into confident, well-rounded individuals. We may no longer remember our early years, but every experience shapes who we become. Your actions with children are important.

Empire State Family Child Care Collaborative

Empowering Providers • Boosting Financial Health • Supporting Wellness

What You Get as a Member:

- ✚ Free One-Year Brightwheel License
- ✚ Business Coaching
- ✚ Health Benefits – Telemedicine/Health Insurance Navigator
- ✚ Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) Help
- ✚ Tools to Grow Your Business & Reduce Admin Time

What You Can Achieve:

- ✚ All Office of Children and Family Service (OCFS) Documents in One Place
- ✚ Lower Business Expenses
- ✚ More Time Back in Your Day-Less Paperwork
- ✚ Increased Retirement Savings
- ✚ Confidence in Managing Finances

12-Month Program | Limited Spaces Available
Don't miss out on this opportunity to
streamline your business and boost your income.

Ready to Apply?

Contact us today to sign up or learn more!

Are you a registered family day care
or licensed group family day care in
good standing with OCFS?

APPLY NOW



SCAN HERE



CONTACT US

Chrissy Parfinski
Email: cparfinski@niagaracap.org
Phone: (716) 285-8572 ext. 120

Niagara Community Action

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Erin Crump

Legally Exempt: Debbie Perricelli,
and Nichole Jeffords

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Child Care Referrals: Mary Vance

Mission Statement:

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. is a countywide agency dedicated to reducing poverty in a collaborative effort by initiating and conducting programs of self-sufficiency. Our ultimate goal is to empower individuals and families to reach their fullest potential.

Office Closings:

October 13th
November 11th, 27th, & 28th

Contact Information:

Community Child Care
Clearinghouse of Niagara
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Niagara Falls, NY 14305

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Fax: 716-285-9693

E-mail: ccrniagara@niagaracap.org

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Resources for Child Care Providers

Help is available to provide support to all child care programs that need assistance with issues that may arise in their child care program. Community Child Care Clearing House of Niagara may also have quality initiative grants available to eligible licensed and registered child care programs.

We're here to help if you have a curriculum which isn't working for you, a disgruntled parent, or a screaming child. We know these are just a sample of the issues you may face as a child care provider. We will come into your program to observe and assess the situation. We then can provide technical support, training, and create a quality improvement plan. For more information about this service, please contact: Chrissy Parfinski @ cparfinski@niagaracap.org or by phone at 716-285-8572 ext.120.

Our referral counselor will be working with parents who need assistance in locating a registered or licensed child care program. In addition, she will work with providers to ensure that all information regarding child care vacancies is up to date in the referral database. To obtain child care referrals or if you are a child care provider needing to update your information, please call Mary Vance at 716-285-8572 Ext 109 or send an email to ccrniagara@niagaracap.org.

If you receive a *Provider Update Form*, please complete the form and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope as soon as possible. As you may know, available child care slots are few and, in some areas, non-existent. If you have child care openings, please keep our office informed. A voice message which is available for calls after hours or e-mail is sufficient.

The Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara works to ensure that all information provided to parents and providers is accurate and up-to-date. Please help us accomplish this goal by keeping us updated.



What is Legally-Exempt Child Care?

Legally-Exempt Child Care is an option for families. The Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services allows parents/caretakers to hire individuals to care for their child(ren). This is known as legally-exempt child care. A legally-exempt child care provider is not required to be licensed or registered to provide child care. Families eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can choose this type of care, however, the legally-exempt provider/program must enroll with an enrollment agency in order to be paid. A legally-exempt child care provider can be someone that the parent/caretaker is familiar with like a friend, a neighbor, family member, or someone else known to the family. Care can be provided in the child(ren)'s home, the provider's home, or in another residence.

HOW TO APPLY TO BE A LEGALLY EXEMPT PROVIDER?

A family who is eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) can say that they want to use a legally-exempt provider. They will be given an enrollment packet which must be completed by the family as well as the provider. The enrollment forms are then returned to the Enrollment Agency (EA) which starts the enrollment process.

WHAT DOES AN ENROLLMENT AGENCY DO?

A New York State contracted Enrollment Agency (EA) can help a prospective provider enroll to provide legally-exempt child care. They can provide technical assistance, eligibility, and share information about the regulatory requirements that must be met to be enrolled.

For more information on legally-exempt child care, please contact the Niagara County Department of Social Services at 716-439-7656.





Marketing Your Child Care Program

Marketing your child care program is essential because it helps attract new families, retain current clients, and establish your program's reputation in the community. Effective marketing builds trust, highlights your unique strengths, and communicates the quality of care and education you provide. Without consistent marketing, even the best programs can remain unnoticed.

To market your child care program, start by creating a strong brand. This includes a recognizable name, logo, and consistent messaging. Use multiple strategies such as social media posts, a professional website, parent testimonials, open houses, post flyers in local businesses, and participate in community events. Highlight your program's unique features, such as small class sizes, special curriculum, or extended hours. Share photos and stories (with parent permission) that showcase the warmth and learning in your classrooms. Consistent, genuine, and community-focused marketing will help your program stand out and grow.

Please contact Donna Striffler at 716-285-8572 Ext. 116 for assistance in marketing your program.



A Note from the Registrar

When Accidents Happen



Children are naturally curious and active. Bumps and bruises are part of growing up, but there is a world of difference between a scraped knee and a serious injury. New York State has strict regulations for child care programs, enforced by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), covering everything from staff qualifications to emergency preparedness.

Common Causes of Day Care Injuries include:

- Inadequate Supervision: One caregiver overseeing too many children, not following OCFS required staff to child ratios, not positioning staff appropriately to intervene with a child which could prevent injuries.
- Unsafe Areas: Broken play equipment, unlocked cabinets, poorly maintained facilities, tripping hazards, cleaning materials accessible to children, using unapproved child care space.
- Employees working without proper background checks and/or not having proper training.
- Not supervising the staff working in child care programs as sometimes, misconduct by staff leads to harm.
- Failure to accommodate a child's medical needs, for instance, ignoring known allergies or failing to administer medication.

The priority in an injury situation is always to provide adequate medical care to deal with a child's injuries. The program must contact the licensor or registrar immediately after the child's needs have been met, and the parent of the child has been contacted regarding any injury that requires professional medical attention. The licensor or registrar must be notified when a child is taken to the school nurse for further assessment. Remember, leaving a message on a registrar's or licensor's voicemail is not considered notifying the Office.

In addition, 911 needs to be contacted for any head injury followed by swelling, headache, irritability or nausea. For injuries that result in a child complaining of increasing pain, cuts that are deep and/or won't stop bleeding, injuries that may result in fractures or broken bones, or at any time you are in doubt, the program must contact 911. Do not move children who exhibit injuries requiring emergency medical attention. Please refer to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Policy statement 20-0 for further information.

When an injury to a child occurs, assess the situation and look for ways that the accident could have been prevented.

The Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) program is available to help child care programs develop and maintain safe environments for children. Through continual assessment of child care areas, programming and staff qualifications, we can prevent serious injuries in child care programs.

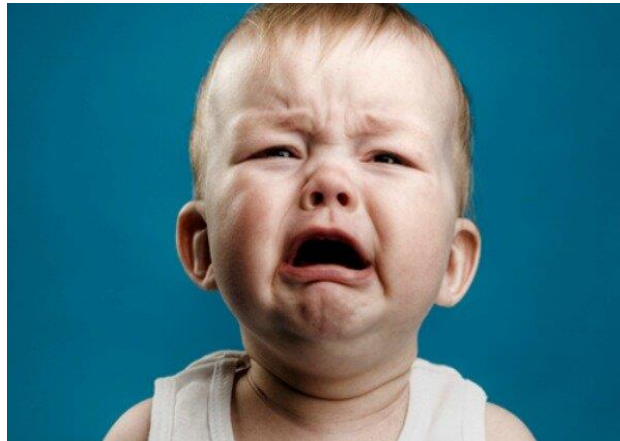
Early Childhood Behavioral Health Consultation

Early Childhood Behavioral Health Consultation is a 100% **FREE** service offered by The Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara. Consultants help to address challenging behaviors and support adults in managing various challenges in the classroom or program, as well as offering tools to manage this stress within themselves. This is a partnership between the caregiver and consultant.

Studies have shown that programs using early childhood behavioral health consultation have seen the following:

- Improved Teacher Retention
- Decreases in children's behavioral problems
- Improvements in teacher-child interactions
- Improvement in overall classroom atmosphere.

For more information on early childhood behavioral health consultation, please contact Erin Crump at 716-285-8572 Ext. 115 or by email at ecrump@niagaracap.org.



Brain Building Activities for Babies and Toddlers

Why is play important for babies and toddlers?

Playful interactions with adults help toddlers build **executive function skills**.

Imitation, hiding, imaginative, and container play games, like the ones below, teach them to focus attention, use working memory, and practice basic self-control.

When you play with a baby, **follow their lead!** Play games they show an interest in and, whenever possible, let them determine how long to play and when to move on to something else.

Some fun activities to try at home or in the classroom:

Toddler See, Toddler Do!

Encourage a toddler to copy your actions while you play together. For example, place a few toy animals in a barnyard, some toy cars in a line, or stack some blocks and then knock them down.

When baby does the same, give specific praise:

“Wow! Look at that tower you built!” or “Nice work! The cars are lined up and ready to race!”

Explore on the Floor

It’s fun for babies to explore their surroundings, whether they are crawling, standing with support, or begin to walk. Join a toddler for some playtime on their level wherever that may be.

Stretch out, sit down, or kneel on the floor near them and place pillows, couch cushions, or soft toys on the floor between you for “obstacles.”

Now, encourage them to explore and come to you.

Toddlers might climb over the cushions, stack them, carry them, or even pretend to lay down and go to sleep. It’s all play!

Dump and Fill

Toddlers love to put items into a container and dump them out repeatedly. (You’ve probably seen a toddler empty out a laundry basket full of clean clothing or a bin full of toys that you just put away!)

Encourage and redirect this fun activity by providing them with a variety of containers (such as empty mixing bowls, boxes, or baskets) and safe items to fill them up with, such as toys or socks.

These activities and more can be found at:

<https://developingchild.harvard.edu>.



Tips for a Safe, Sweet, and (Mostly) Spooky-Free Holiday

Easing Babies & Toddlers into Halloween Fun by Stephanie Long, Infant Toddler Specialist

For many families, Halloween is a time of joy, creativity, and sugary fun—but for babies and toddlers, it can also bring sensory overload, sleep disruption, and unexpected meltdowns. Whether it's your little one's first, second, or third Halloween, here are a few research-informed tips and developmental milestones to watch for to help your little ghouls or ghosts enjoy the season safely and happily.

1. Fright-Prep with Gentle Routines

Not every toddler is ready for masks, costumes, and creepy decor. And that's okay! Talk to your child about what to expect. Read simple Halloween books, point out friendly decorations, and encourage them to try on their costume ahead of time. Sometimes, walking around your neighborhood during the month of October helps them get used to the potential sights and sounds they'll be experiencing.

2. Milestone to Watch: 18–36 months: Toddlers begin “**pretend play**” and may enjoy trying on different costumes or acting like an animal or superhero. If they resist, that's a sign they need more time and reassurance. If you see your little one experiencing hesitation with a character they usually love, try out a “community helper” or maybe even create a costume from scratch! Helping children express themselves and their interests is crucial. Focus on helping your child connect with the people, places, and things they love, in ways that feel safe, familiar, and fun.





Image Obtained from Pinterest.com

- **Let them help sort or count their candy.**
- **Worried about them wanting another sweet treat?** This is the perfect time to add some more health-specific goodies to the pile, perhaps even a halfway point with some yogurt pretzels or berries.
- **Read a favorite bedtime story like:**
Room on the Broom or Goodnight Goon
- **Lower the lights and offer a warm bath or quiet cuddle time to help their body and brain shift gears.**
 - **This is when setting up those faux flame candles comes into play!**
- **Use language to engage while setting expectations**
 - **“The pumpkins are going to sleep, too. Let’s tuck them in together!”**

Milestone to Watch: 24–36 months – Around this age, toddlers begin showing early social skills like helping, offering, and noticing other’s feelings. That means they’re also learning how to wind down, especially when supported with loving routines.

3. Take It Easy on the Sugar

The American Association of Pediatrics recommends limiting added sugar especially for children under 2. Keep an eye on labels (even “healthy” snacks like flavored yogurt or fruit gummies can be high in sugar). Try getting a bit spooky in the kitchen and create some themed snacks or treats!

Healthy Halloween Foods (6+ months):

- Mini pouches of raisins
- Pumpkin or butternut squash puree
- Baked sweet potato mash with cinnamon
- Unsweetened roasted apple puree

Halloween Activities

Little leaf ghosts

One of our favorite Halloween crafts for toddlers. Gather leaves on an autumn walk. When you get home, turn them into these little leaf ghosts. Paint them white. A couple of coats of tempera paint works well. Then use a black Sharpie to draw on spooky faces.



Pebble ghosts

Paint pebbles with white paint (remember to use tempera/water-based paint) You can even buy glow in the dark paint, too, to give your ghosts a spooky glow. Decorate with either black paint or (even easier) a black Sharpie to make the eyes and mouth. Line your ghostly stones along your path for a spooky Halloween signpost to lead kids to get their Trick or Treat Halloween goodies.



Merry monster

Toddlers will love this Halloween craft. They can really be creative and let their imaginations run wild. Save some toilet paper rolls and put out paint, googly eyes, felt pens and cards. Then let your toddler design their own monster. We've given you some ideas to get started.



Preschool Fall Fine Motor Activities

Preschoolers can engage in a variety of free, fall-themed fine motor activities, including pumpkin seed sorting, leaf lacing, and creating fall collages using torn paper. The following activities can be adapted for different skill levels and focus on strengthening hand muscles, hand-eye coordination, and scissor skills.

Specific ideas:

Pumpkin Activities:

- **Pumpkin Seed Sorting:** After carving a pumpkin, have children sort, count, and paint the seeds.
- **Pumpkin Play Dough:** Use pumpkin-shaped cookie cutters or have children mold their own pumpkin shapes with play dough.
- **Pumpkin Stamping:** Cut a mini pumpkin in half and use it as a stamp to create pumpkin prints on paper.

Nature-Based Activities:

- **Leaf Lacing:**
Punch holes around the edges of a leaf and have children thread yarn or string through the holes.
- **Fall Nature Collage:**
Collect leaves, twigs, and other natural materials and have children create a collage on paper.
- **Fall Sensory Bin:**
Fill a bin with items like dried corn, acorns, and small pumpkins for children to explore and sort.

Other Fine Motor Activities:

- **Fall Cutting Strips:** Provide strips of paper with different fall-themed images or patterns for children to cut with scissors.
- **Fall Sticker Activities:** Use stickers to create fall-themed pictures or patterns.
- **Paper Tearing:** Have children tear colorful paper into small pieces and glue them onto a surface to create a picture or pattern.





If you've ever wondered how to dye pumpkin seeds after looking at adorable pumpkin seed activities on your Pinterest feed, these easy step by step directions is what you need!

Although pumpkins are the ultimate favorite each fall, pumpkin seeds are just as fun, especially for kids' activities and crafts! Here is an excellent tutorial on dyeing pumpkin seeds without making a mess all over the place (or without breaking the bank!)

Using colored pumpkin seeds in sensory activities is a fantastic way to build fine motor skills in little one. That is why we've listed some fantastic fun activities using dyed pumpkin seeds that you can do with your kids!

Dyed Pumpkin Seeds Supplies:

- Pumpkin seeds
 - Plastic baggies
 - Food coloring (we used fall colors)
 - Vinegar
 - Tray lined with paper towel
-
- Start by preparing all the things you'll need for this easy DIY.
 - Take all the pumpkin seeds you want to use and divide them into groups. For example, you may want to dye the seeds in three different colors, so you would split the seeds into three separate piles.
 - Place the sorted pumpkin seeds into three plastic bags.
 - Add 5 drops of food coloring dye in each plastic bag. Then, pour one tbsp of vinegar into each bag.
 - It's time to mix! Seal each bag well and mix the seeds inside until the seeds are colored by kneading the bags. If the pumpkin seeds look too pale, add more food coloring drops to get a more vibrant color.

Let the pumpkin seeds dry before using.

- Open the bags and spread the seeds onto a lined tray. Let the seeds dry. Turn the seeds over a couple of times until they are completely dry. Once you are sure the seeds are dry, it's time to use them!
- Your dyed pumpkin seeds are ready to be used. There are so many fun pumpkin seed activities to try. We have listed a few fun suggestions.

Fun Activities with Dyed Pumpkin Seeds

Pumpkin Seed Color Sorting:

Sort the seeds by color. Add all the green seeds to a green bowl, all the yellow seeds to a yellow bowl, orange seeds to an orange bowl, and so on.

Pumpkin Seed Counting Practice:

Write numbers in cupcake liners and count the correct number of pumpkin seeds into each cupcake liner.

Pumpkin Seed Sensory Bin:

Use the pumpkin seeds as a base for an autumn themed sensory bin!

Pumpkin Seed Autumn Tree Craft:

Use colored pumpkin seeds to make an autumn tree craft by glueing the seeds to a tree pattern.

Pumpkin Seed Patterns:

Have the children draw patterns on paper with glue and stick the colored pumpkin seeds on top. You could even write a word or the child's name in glue and add the dyed pumpkin seeds.

Pumpkin Seed Mosaics:

Grab a piece of playdough or clay and push the pumpkin seeds into it to create a colorful mosaic. Make patterns or simple pictures like hearts or flowers.

Pumpkin Seed Craft:

Have the children draw a pumpkin on a piece of paper and add glue. Then have them stick



Healthy Fall Snacks and Meals

Fall Apple Pumpkin Oatmeal Breakfast

**Total Time**

15 minutes

Serving Size

2/3 cup oatmeal and 1/2 banana

Servings

8

CACFP Components

Grains, Vegetable and Fruit

Ingredients

- 1 cup quick cooking oats
- 1 1/2 cup of water
- 2 cups of applesauce
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 bananas

Directions

1. Add oats, water, applesauce, pumpkin, cinnamon and vanilla to a medium saucepan.
2. Cook on medium-high heat until liquid is almost nearly absorbed by the oats.
3. Serve 2/3 cup of oatmeal with 1/2 a banana, sliced to each participant immediately while still warm.
4. *One serving provides 1/2 oz eq (ounce equivalent) grains and 1/2 cup combined fruit and vegetable.*



Pumpkin Applesauce

Breakfast/Snack

**Total Time**

5 minutes

Serving Size

2/3 cup

Servings

12

Components

Grains, Vegetable, and Fruit

Ingredients

- 6 1/4 cups unsweetened applesauce
- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon or more to taste
- 1 tsp ground pumpkin spice
- 12 graham crackers (14 grams each cracker)

Directions

1. Place applesauce, pumpkin, vanilla, pumpkin spice and cinnamon in a large bowl.
2. Mix until all is well combined.
3. Scoop 2/3 cup of mixture into a bowl and serve with 1 graham cracker for a complete snack.
4. One serving credits as 1/2 cup fruit, 1/8 cup vegetable and 1/2 oz eq (*ounce equivalent*) grains.



Fun Seasonal Activities for School-aged Children

Have the children locate the items listed below. They can work independently or in teams.





Teen Halloween Photo Scavenger Hunt

Parentingteensandtweens.com



RULES:

- Snap A Picture of Each Of The Following
- Stay With Your Team
- Be Polite And Courteous On The Hunt
- Meet Back At Home Base At Designated Time
- HAVE FUN!!!!

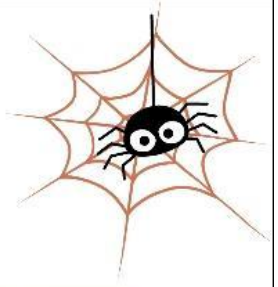
- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Pet in a Costume | ☐ Funny Pumpkin |
| ☐ Spider Web (fake or real) | ☐ Candy Corn |
| ☐ Black Cat | ☐ Halloween Yard Sign |
| ☐ Halloween Inflatable | ☐ Person in Harry Potter Costume |
| ☐ Scary Pumpkin | ☐ Skeleton |
| ☐ Scarecrow | ☐ Halloween Movie Case |
| ☐ Witch | ☐ Black Shoes |
| ☐ Stop Sign | ☐ Halloween Door Wreath |
| ☐ Person In Superhero Costume | ☐ Bowl of Candy |
| ☐ Something Purple | ☐ Cauldron |
| ☐ Witch | ☐ Halloween T-shirt |
| ☐ Snickers Bar | ☐ Group Selfie |
| ☐ Fall Flowers | ☐ Bug |
| ☐ Black Bird(s) | ☐ Person in an Animal Costume |
| ☐ Zombie | |



19



HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH



m	a	o	k	a	w	s	o	c	s
g	k	n	b	a	t	p	n	j	p
h	p	u	m	p	k	i	n	g	o
o	t	o	h	i	z	d	b	x	o
s	i	h	y	s	o	e	i	w	k
t	r	i	c	k	m	r	o	i	y
g	o	d	p	t	r	e	a	t	z
v	r	p	m	u	o	s	t	c	p
z	o	m	b	i	e	a	b	h	o
u	q	e	b	a	l	t	u	z	e



pumpkin



treat



zombie



witch



spooky



ghost



trick



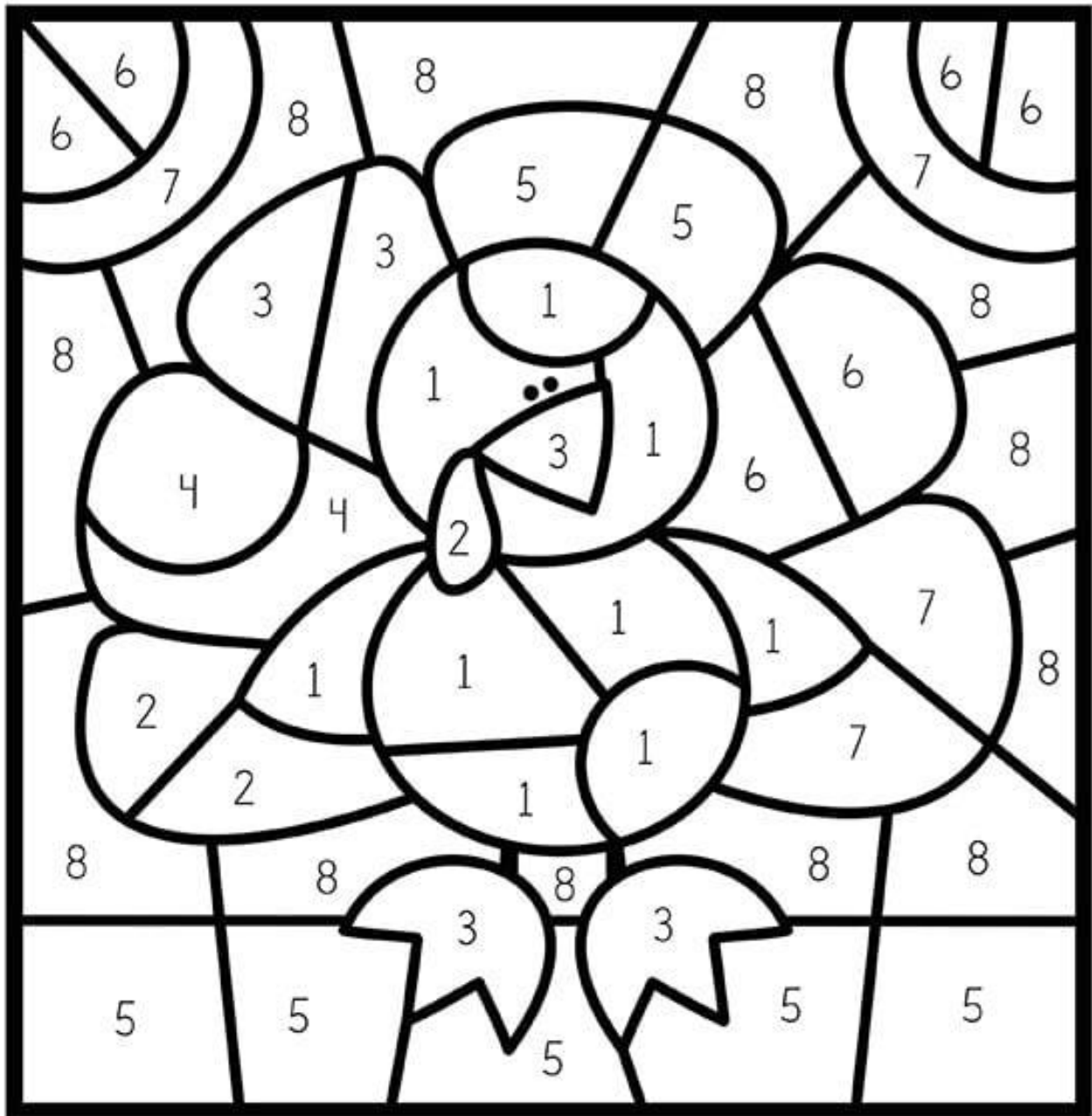
bat



spider

Thanksgiving

COLOR BY NUMBER



1 – brown

2 – dark red

3 – yellow

4 – blue

5 – purple

6 – pink

7 – green

8 – orange



Child-Led Art Activities

Fall is a great time for child-led art activities leveraging the colors and textures of the season. Some popular ideas include leaf rubbings, nature collages, pumpkin decorating (painting or seed mosaics), and creating leaf-themed art with various techniques like painting, printing, or tissue paper crafts. You can also incorporate nature walks to collect materials like leaves, acorns, and pine cones for art projects like nature crowns or dioramas.

Here are some specific ideas:

Nature-Based Art:

Leaf Rubbings:

Gather different shaped leaves and have children create rubbings using crayons on paper. The leaves can be colored in or can be used to create patterns.

Nature Collages:

Use collected leaves, acorns, pinecones, and other natural materials to create collages on paper or cardboard.

Leaf Painting:

Provide paints and let children experiment with painting directly on leaves or use leaves as stamps.

Nature Dioramas:

Use collected items to create scenes in a box or container.

Pumpkin Painting:

Provide various paints, brushes, and stencils for children to decorate pumpkins.

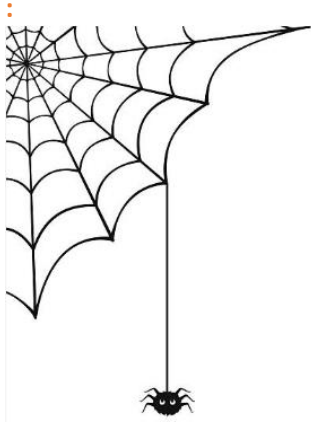
Pumpkin Seed Mosaics:

Use pumpkin seeds to create designs or pictures on paper or pumpkins.

Tissue Paper Pumpkins:

Create a 3D pumpkin using tissue paper and a printable template.





Watercolor Leaves:

Use watercolors to paint colorful fall leaves.

Leaf Suncatchers:

Create suncatchers by decorating coffee filters or contact paper with leaves and other fall elements.

Scarecrow Crafts: Make scarecrows using paper bags, popsicle sticks, or other craft materials.

Acorn Crafts: Create acorn necklaces, characters, or other fun crafts using acorns.

Tips for Child-Led Activities:

Provide a variety of materials:

Offer different types of paper, paints, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, and natural materials.

Encourage experimentation:

Let children explore different techniques and materials without strict instructions.

Focus on the process, not the product:

Emphasize the fun of creating and exploring rather than aiming for a perfect finished product.

Make it a sensory experience:

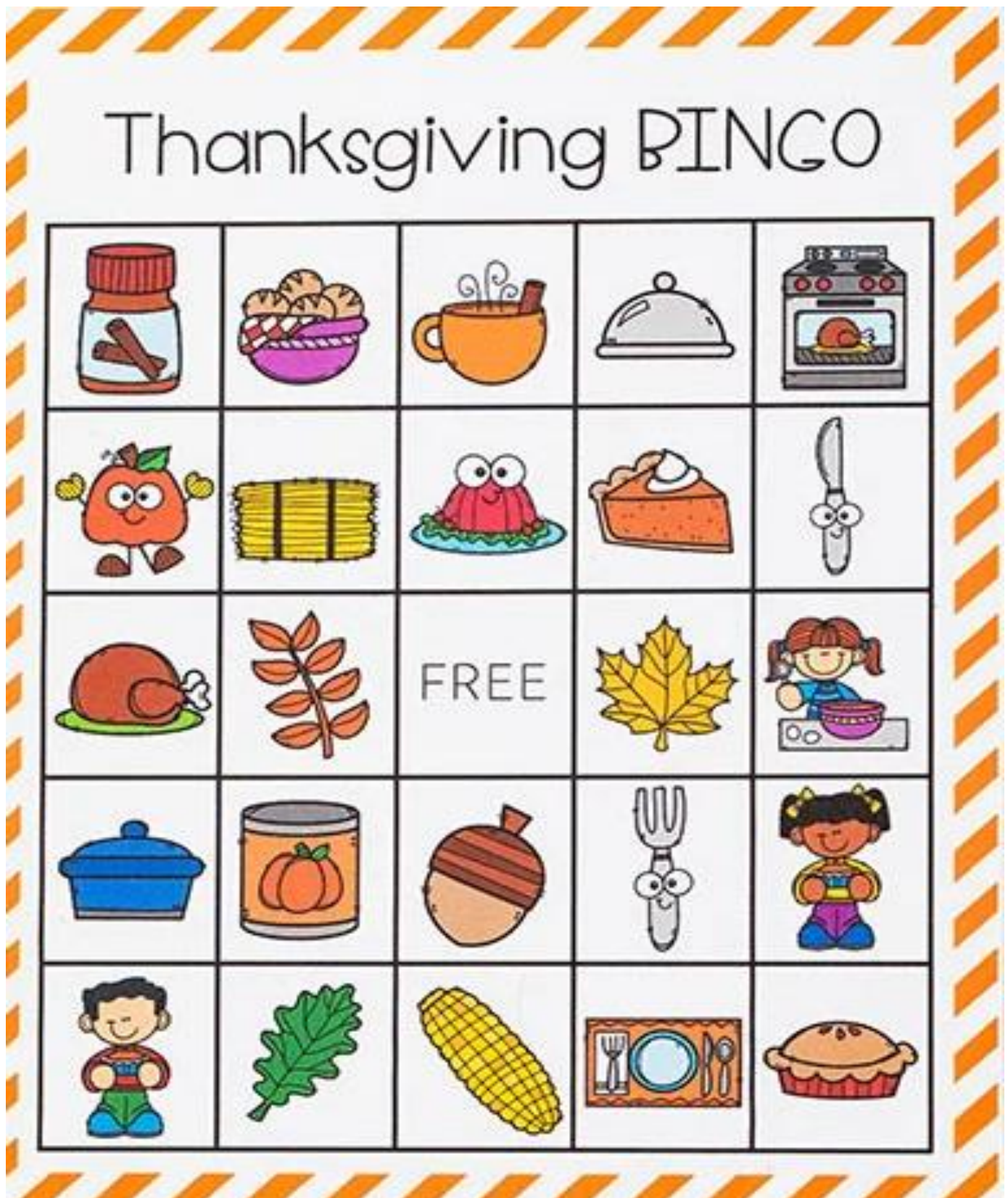
Incorporate different textures and smells into the art activities.

Display the creations:

Hang the artwork or create a special display area to showcase the children's work.



The next two pages include a bingo card and bingo pieces to create a fun bingo game.





Disguise a Turkey Activity – Teacher Directions

Objective:

Students will use creativity to disguise a turkey so it doesn't get eaten for Thanksgiving. This activity includes both an art project and an optional writing component.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of a blank turkey template (one per student)
- Construction paper, tissue paper, felt, googly eyes, feathers, fabric scraps
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Glue sticks, scissors, tape
- Optional: writing paper or worksheet for “My Turkey’s Story”

Steps:

1. Introduce the Activity (10–15 minutes)

- Gather students together and explain the premise:

"Thanksgiving is coming, and our turkey is trying to avoid being eaten! Your job is to help by giving your turkey a clever disguise so no one will recognize it."

- Show a sample completed turkey or photos of examples (e.g., disguised as a superhero, princess, firefighter, taco, robot, etc.).

2. Brainstorming (10 minutes)

- As a class, brainstorm a list of fun disguise ideas and write them on the board.
- Encourage students to think outside the box and get creative with their turkey's new identity.

3. Create the Disguise (30–45 minutes)

- Hand out a blank turkey template to each student.
- Instruct students to decorate their turkeys using any materials provided. They can color, cut, glue, and add accessories to hide their turkey's true identity.
- Remind students to **completely disguise the turkey**. Try not to leave any part showing!

4. Optional Writing Extension (15–20 minutes)

- Have students write a short story or paragraph about their disguised turkey:

“My turkey is disguised as a _____ because...”

“One day, my turkey went to...”

- Use the writing paper or have them write directly below their artwork, depending on your setup.

5. Display the Turkeys

- Hang the disguised turkeys around the classroom or hallway with the writing pieces.
- Consider doing a “Turkey Parade” where students present their disguised turkeys to the class.

Tips for Success:

- Provide plenty of time and supplies to let creativity flow.
- Allow for individual expression. No two turkeys should look alike!
- Consider sending the blank template home for a family version of the project, too.



The Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara staff hopes that everyone enjoys the Fall season. There are so many great activities in the Fall. Please enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. Please contact the Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara with all of your child care needs.

