



# Stark County Board of DD Early Intervention Newsletter

October 2021

## playgroup

Pumpkins are the theme this month.  
Join us on Tuesdays @ 10AM all  
month for Pumpkin activities...



October 5th  
Kids in the Kitchen  
Spookley the Square Pumpkin Snack

This week we be making square pumpkins for snack. You will need a graham cracker, icing, food coloring and some small candies or fruits for details.

October 12th  
Pumpkin Painting  
IN-PERSON @ Jackson Park

Join us at Jackson park to pick and paint a small pumpkin. The kindness rocks will also be available to paint from a few weeks ago when we had to cancel. We will meet under the pavilion by the playground. Since the pavilion is covered we will paint rain or shine (we just might not be able to play on the playground).



October 19th  
Pumpkin Faces  
IN-PERSON @ Price Park

Join us at Price Park to make Jack-o'-lanterns with playdoh. You will get your very own pumpkin playdoh mat, pumpkin scented playdoh, and pumpkin faces book to take home when you are done.



October 26th  
Pumpkin Picking Sensory Play with Jello

Pumpkin picking in Jello? Yep, you read it right! Today we are going to explore sensory play with Jello. You will need to plan ahead for this one so that your Jello is set-up. Using our fingers, spoons, or tongs we are going to pick the pumpkins out of the Jello. We might even eat some while we are exploring it.



## A pumpkin story and snack about differences and acceptance!

### Spookley the Square Pumpkin Snack

#### You will need:

Graham Crackers  
Icing  
Red/yellow food coloring  
Candy eyes  
Black gel for mouth  
Green fruit roll  
or a tootsie roll for stem



#### Directions:

Make orange icing by adding 1 drop red and 6 drops of yellow food coloring. Break a graham cracker in half to make two squares. Frost each graham cracker square with the orange icing. Immediately add the eyes and stem.

Then, using the black decorating gel draw a smile on each. If you wanted to make it healthier you could use cream cheese and fruit to create your pumpkin cracker snack. Be creative, it doesn't have to look the same.

While your child is enjoying their snack you could read them the story The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin. A very unique pumpkin delivers a special message of tolerance and self-acceptance.

*Spookley was different. He was odd, he was rare.  
Spookley the pumpkin wasn't round- he was...square!*

A story about a patch filled with all sorts of oddly shaped and colorful pumpkins-showing how good being different can be.



# October Pumpkin Activities

## Pumpkin Faces

### Exploring Emotions Through Play

Surprised

Sad

Silly

Children watch us. How we express our emotions sends powerful messages to them. Toddlers don't always have the words to express their feelings. Learning about emotions through play gives them a chance to explore and express emotions safely. Here are a few fun ways to explore and label emotions using pumpkins.

Explore emotions using the pumpkin pages at the end of the newsletter (there is a colored or a black and white version your child can color). You print multiple pages to use, laminate them, or print them on card stock for durability to reuse over and over or you can make your own. Here are some activities to try:

- \* Use them as playdough mats- make faces using playdough; is your jack -o'-lantern happy?, sad?, mad?...
- \* Use markers or crayons to draw faces on them- how is your jack -o'-lantern feeling?
- \* Cut out and use the jack -o'-lantern face pieces to create happy, sad, mad, silly, and surprised pumpkins. Pieces can be glued down, laid on top, or use Velcro to interchange and make all kinds of faces.
- \* Make a jack -o'-lantern faces book and talk about their faces/emotions.
- \* Read -It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse! and talk about the pumpkin faces Mouse paints.
- \* Sing- Can You Make a Happy Face? Jack -o'-lantern (on the next page); repeat the song exchanging happy for mad, silly, surprised, and sad face (add some of your own too). Make faces to match the emotion you are singing about.

Mad

Happy

## Pumpkin Picking Sensory Play



Food makes a great base for sensory bins there are so many textures. Some food can be reused repeatedly in sensory bins like beans, lentils, flour, corn flour,

etc. and some can only be used one time and then thrown out. This is a one use sensory bin and is great for those kids that put everything in their mouth. It is good to eat and play with at the same time.

To make this sensory bin you will need orange Jello, a rectangular cake pan or cookie container, and pumpkin candies. Make your Jello according to the package instructions then pour the mixture into your container making sure there is enough to cover your pumpkin candies. Carefully place the pumpkin candies into the Jello with the stem up. You will want to scatter them throughout so there is enough room for your child to pick the pumpkins out of the Jello. Place the Jello into the refrigerator until it is firm (about four hours). Be

sure to plan ahead so the Jello pumpkin patch is ready for play. Have the following available for your child to experiment with: small tongs, spoons, small empty bowls, or ice cube trays.

Encourage your child to pick the pumpkins out of the Jello using their fingers, tongs, or the spoon. Your child may want to just pick the pumpkins out and eat them or eat the Jello. A favorite activity of young children is filling and dumping (another way they might play with the activity). They may want to fill a container with the pumpkins as they pick them out, then dump them all back in. If you have an empty ice cube tray you could ask your child to place one pumpkin in each hole of the ice cube tray, this is a great way to play and practice math skills like one-to-one correspondence and counting. You can build language and vocabulary skills by talking to your child about the color, or how does it feel- cold or warm, sticky, slimy, wet or dry, etc. This activity can get a little messy so you will want to cover the area with a plastic cloth or take it outside where clean-up will be easier. Be sure to have a washrag or container of water to wash up with after they are done.

Super simple and fun! Some kids just don't like the feel of the insides of the pumpkin-cold, wet, stringy, and slimy. You don't have to carve your pumpkins to create Jack-o-lanterns, you can paint them instead! You don't even have to make a Jack-o-lantern you can just paint the whole pumpkin however you'd like.

## Pumpkin Painting

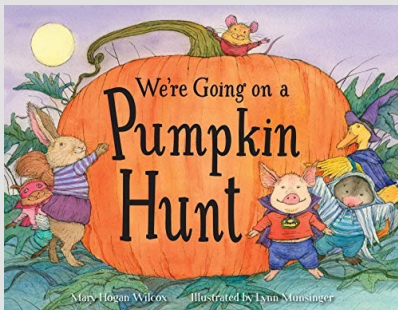
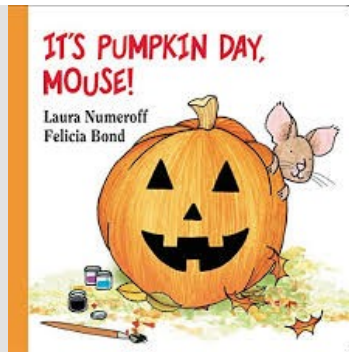
You will need:  
A pumpkin  
Paint  
Paintbrushes



You may want to cover the area with newspaper or a plastic table cloth and have some water available to rinse the brush between colors. Make sure your pumpkin is free of dirt before painting. You can also add embellishments like glitter, pompoms, sequins, googly eyes, etc. if you choose.

## BOOKS TO READ...

Mouse is excited for fall because that means it is time to decorate pumpkins! But one is missing. Where could it have gone?



This story will remind you of We're Going on a Bear Hunt. But, in this version, the animals are out on a spooky night trying to find a pumpkin. And, that is just what they find.

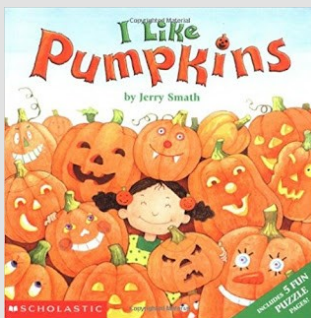
Duck decides to surprise Pig and Mouse by making a jack-o'-lantern, but something goes horribly wrong! As duck is trying to carve a jack-o-lantern he gets stuck inside the pumpkin. From there the comedy ensues- he needs Pig and Mouse to help him...but when a Pumpkin Monster approaches them, they're too scared to notice that Duck may be in trouble.



A rhyming story about a little girl who likes pumpkins...

Some pumpkins are tall;  
Some pumpkins are squat.  
Some pumpkins are big;  
Some pumpkins are not.

A little girl tells her favorite things about pumpkins--like pumpkin masks, pumpkin seeds, and scary jack-o'-lanterns. But her favorite of all is . . . delicious pumpkin pie!



## Songs and Fingerplays...

### Pumpkin Song

Have you ever seen a pumpkin,  
a pumpkin, a pumpkin?

Have you ever seen a pumpkin,  
that grows on a vine?

A round one, a tall one,  
A bumpy one, a squashed one.

Have you ever seen a pumpkin,  
that grows on a vine?



### Can You Make a Happy Face?

#### Jack-o'-Lantern

Can You Make a happy face?  
Happy Face? Happy Face?

Can You Make a happy face?  
Jack-o'-lantern.

\*Repeat using mad, silly, surprised, and sad face. Make faces to match the emotion you are singing about.



### Pumpkin, Pumpkin

Tune: Humpty Dumpty

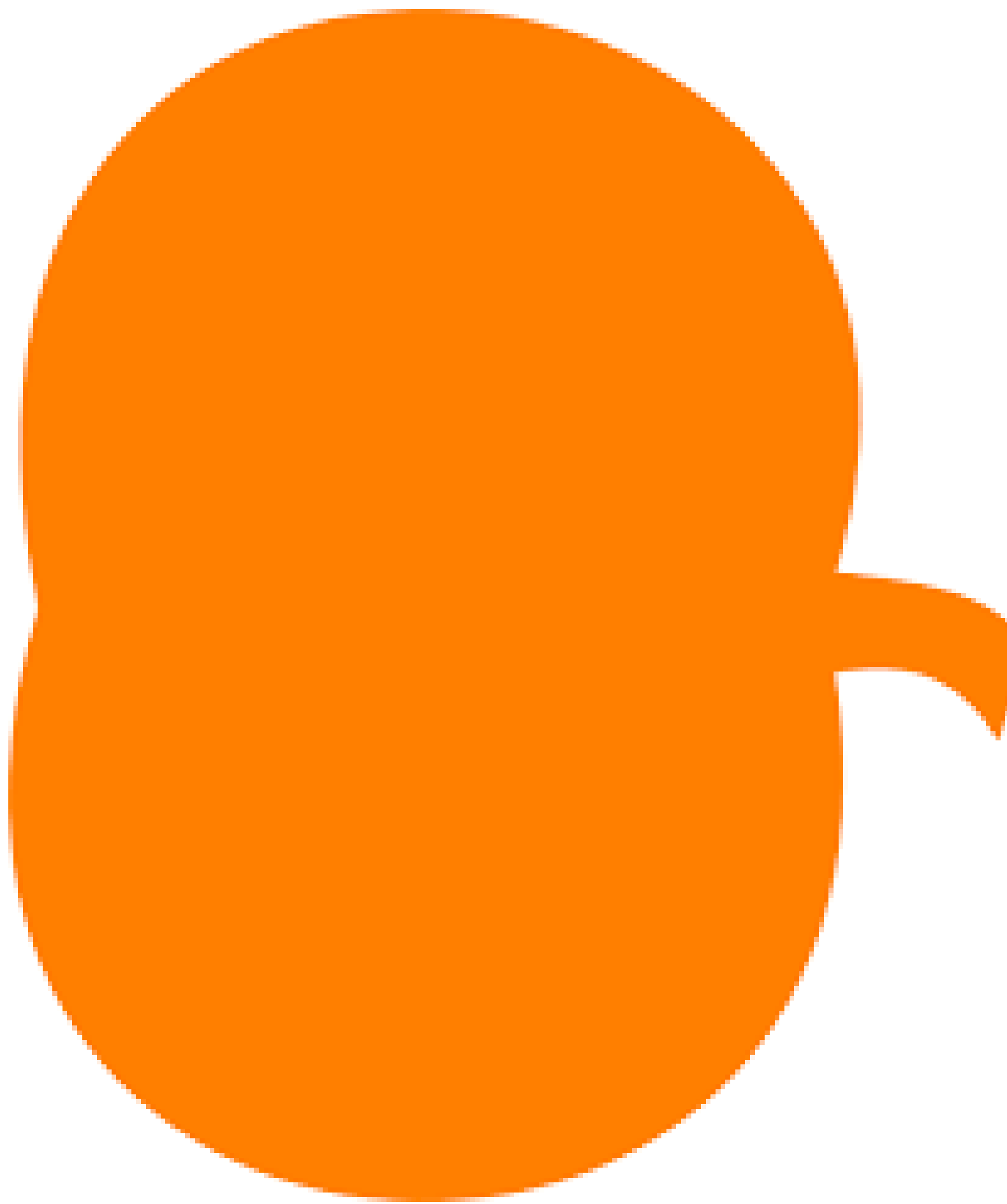
Pumpkin, Pumpkin, sat on a wall.  
(bounce baby/child on lap)

Pumpkin, Pumpkin, tip and fall,  
(lean baby/child to one side then the other)

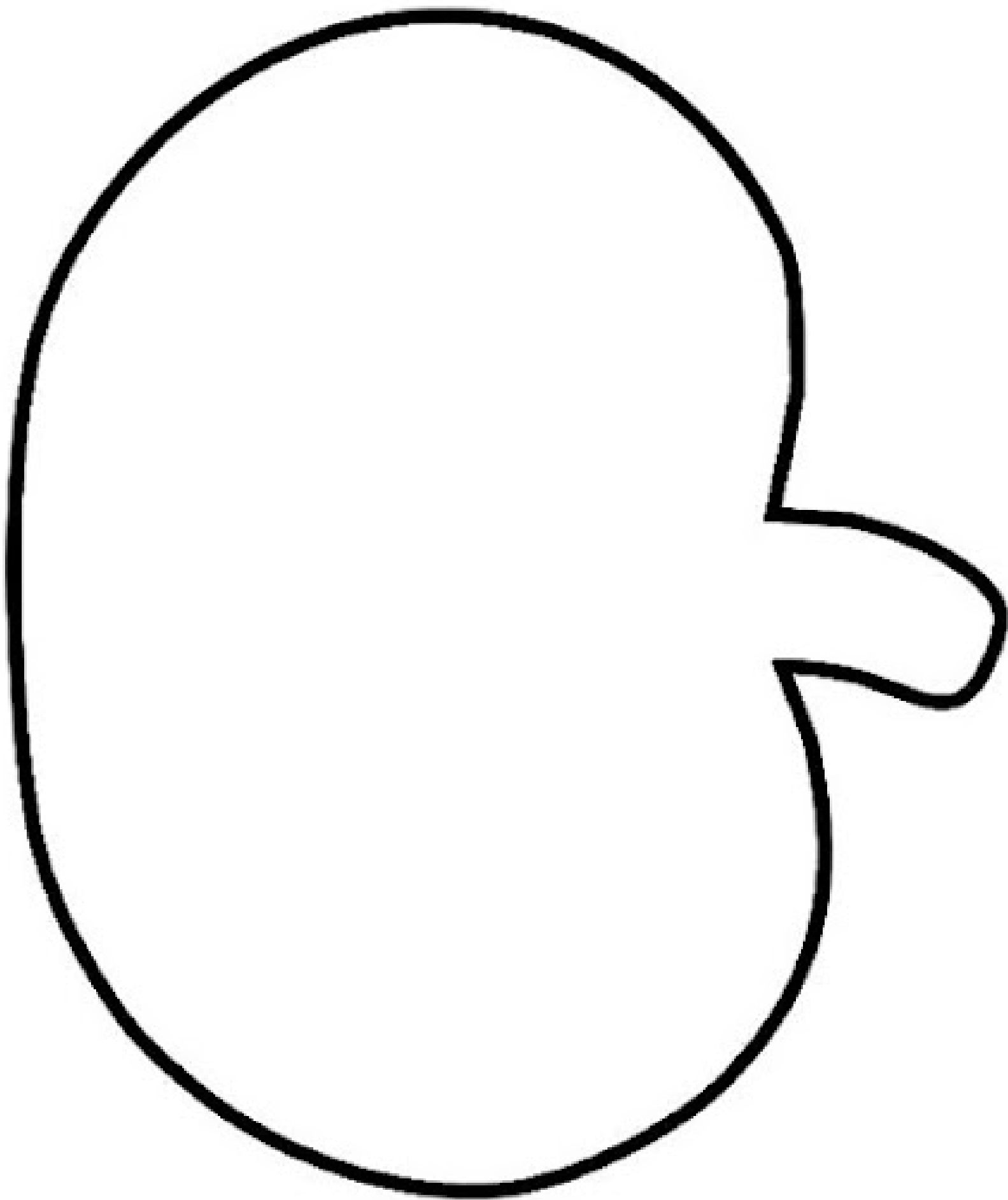
Pumpkin, Pumpkin Roll down the street.  
(bounce baby/child on lap faster)

Pumpkin, Pumpkin, Trick or Treat!!  
(raise baby/child in the air or bend back)

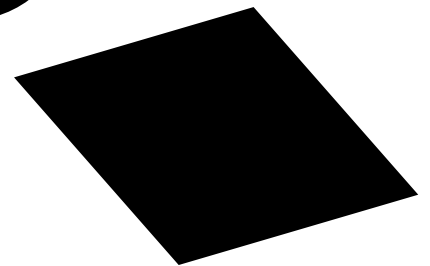
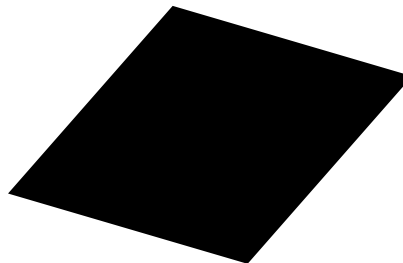
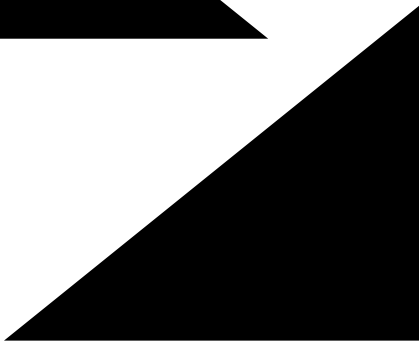
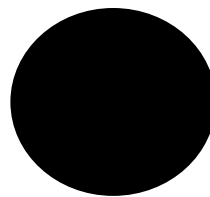
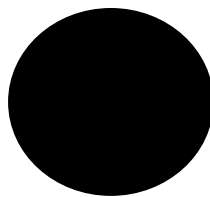
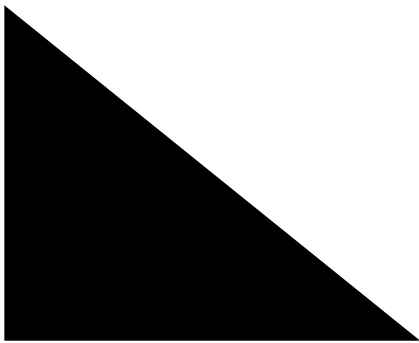
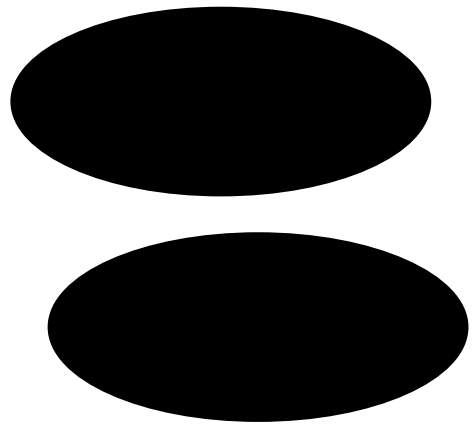
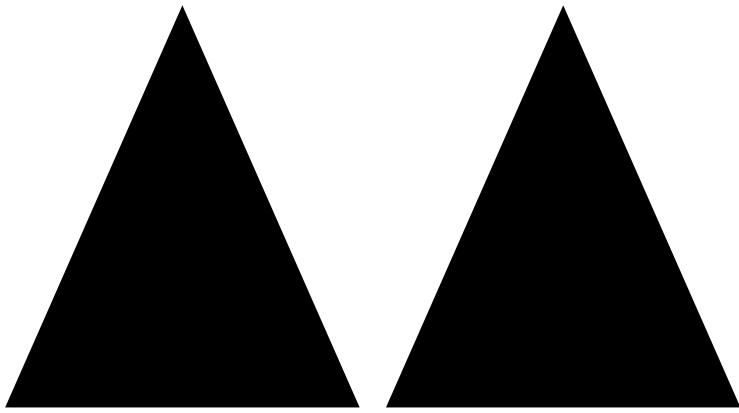




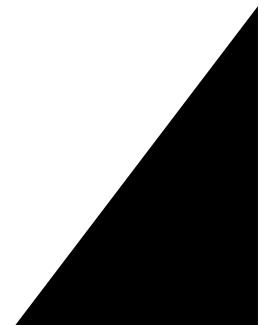
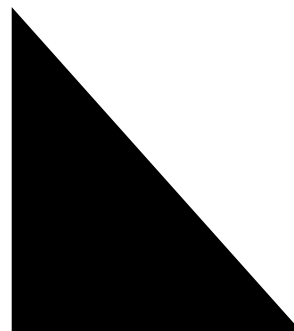
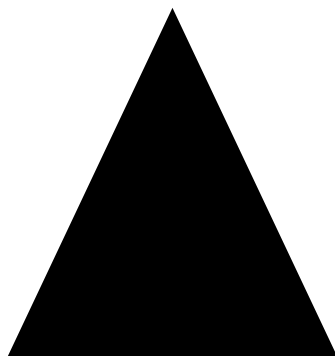
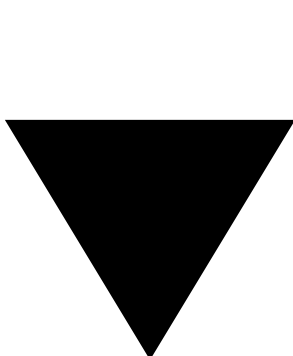




EYES



NOSE



MOUTHS

