

TOYBOX Halloween

TOYBOX offers a set of free, playful, evidence-based **letters**, **numbers**, and **wellness** activities for caregivers and educators with children aged 2 to 8 years.

Activities have been developed by the community to support learning and wellness for a good start to life.

Learn Together, Play Together!

See more strategies at our website TOYBOXManitoba.ca or by scanning the **QR code!** →



Spooky Storytelling It Was a Dark and Stormy Night...

Beginner: Make up a Hallowe'en-themed story.

[Tip]: Use different voices to tell a real or pretend adventure.

Intermediate: Encourage your child to invent a new Hallowe'en story. Ask questions (who, what, when, where, and why).

[Tip]: Pay attention to the vocabulary used, and the story's beginning, middle and end.

Experienced: Encourage your child to create a story based on memories of trick-or-treating, dressing up, or retelling spooky folklore.

[Tip]: Take turns adding to the story.

Why? Telling stories helps develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills, and sparks imagination and curiosity.



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Happy Counting and Sorting Hallowe'en!

Sort and Organize Your Hallowe'en Stuff!

Beginner: Look for orange or black objects.

[Tip]: Count items together. Are there more orange items or more black items?

Intermediate: Sort by colour, shape or size.

[Tip]: Sort pumpkin seeds, candy loot, creepy crawlies, or kinds of costumes. Use fractions to describe your sorting (for example, $\frac{1}{2}$ the candies are chocolate bars).

Experienced: Make up rules while sorting candy.

[Tip]: Sort by kind, colour, size, preference OR junk vs. healthy. Take turns guessing the sorting rule. Graph your results!

Why? Sorting helps children focus on object characteristics, practice inference skills, improve vocabulary, and organize ideas in memory. Sorting allows children to explore basic skills related to algebra, geometry, and problem solving.



Wellness for Caregivers:

Choose Your Battles Is It Worth It?

Goal: Halloween is a time when anxiety and excitement run high for children and adults. Even with the best plans, conflicts may occur, whether about costumes, dinner plans, or trick-or-treating. When conflicts arise, decide if you have the time and energy to deal with them right now. You are creating lasting memories, and you can set some battles aside.

[Tip]: Wait for the right time to bring up an issue, or decide whether you raise it at all.

Why? Life is busy. Choose whether there is time to teach a lesson or whether it can wait. Managing expectations is a social skill that is important for all ages.



Child Development Tip: Notice and talk about the letters and numbers around your child *every day*. Enjoy your time together.