

Storytime Activity Guide

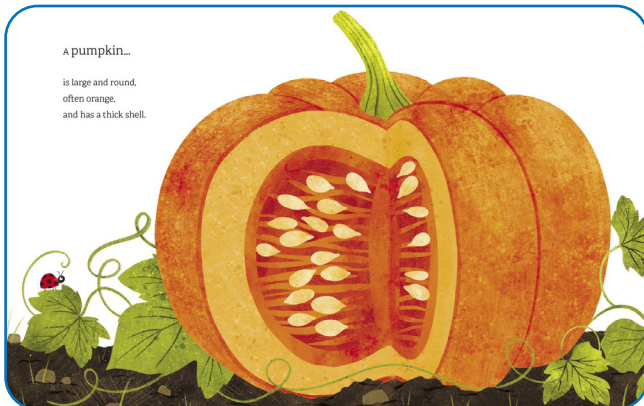
Amara's Farm

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Amara invited her friends over for an autumn potluck at her farm. She wants to make a pumpkin dish. Amara has many plants on her farm and needs to find her pumpkins. In this story, learn more about the different plants on the farm and find the pumpkins together!

Did you know?

Nature provides a rich and engaging learning environment that supports children's understanding of science concepts. By immersing young children in natural settings and experiences, they develop a strong foundation for scientific thinking and exploration. While reading ***Amara's Farm***, practice describing the textures, shapes, sizes, and colors of the plants to enhance your child's vocabulary and understanding of the characteristics of objects all around them.



A pumpkin...
is large and round,
often orange,
and has a thick shell.

Words to Practice

seeds
lined ribs
squishy innards
vine
stem
hollow

Talk about it!

- You now know all about the characteristics of pumpkins. Talk with your child about characteristics of other fruits or vegetables. For example: different squashes such as butternut, acorn, and kabocha. What characteristics are similar or different to a pumpkin? Are there seeds, a thick shell, orange pulp, or squishy innards?
- There are worms on Amara's Farm. Talk about the characteristics of a worm or the soil where the worm lives!
- At the end of the story, Amara's friends come over for the potluck. What foods do you and your child see? How many different colors do you see? How many might have similar textures, sizes, tastes etc.?

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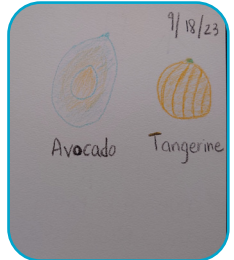
Explore!

Let's explore and taste the vegetables or fruits that you have at home!

Materials needed:

- Any vegetables and/or fruits
- Magnifying glass
- Notepad pad
- Crayons or markers
- Plastic knife
- Plate

1. Gather all your materials. Ask your child to name the foods in front of them. They may need your help if it is a new fruit, vegetable, or other food.
2. Talk with your child about what they notice. For example, what does the outside of the food or vegetable look like? What do they think the inside might look like?
3. On a plate or hard surface, cut the fruits in half with a plastic knife.
4. Use the magnifying glass to observe the inner parts of each food. Are there seeds or a pit? How would they describe the seeds? Are the innards squishy or hard? What color is the inside and is it the same color as the outside?
5. Have your child smell and taste the fruit. What do they notice about each one?
6. Use a notepad to draw the outside and/or inside of the fruits. Write the date and see what your child remembers about the characteristics of these foods the next time you have them.



Play: "I Spy" Flowers

Go out for a walk in your neighborhood or backyard and play a game of "I Spy" to find flowers! Once you and your child find a flower, count how many petals, leaves, and stems it has and talk about textures, shapes, sizes, and colors of the petals, leaves, and stem.

