

# CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Parent and Child Care Provider Resource

## School Age Fall Activity

### Growing and Learning through Play

The following activity will support children's learning. Talk with children and ask questions as you play with them. As children listen to you, they build language and social skills, further reinforcing the concepts you are teaching. Match activities to children's favorite books, songs, or toys to make them more meaningful learning experiences. Visit our website at [www.chs-ca.org](http://www.chs-ca.org) to discover more learning resources.



## Activity: Investigating Pumpkins

### What you need:

- Four or more pumpkins of various sizes
- Measuring tape
- Weight scale
- Black marker
- Paper and pencil

### What to do:

- Gather the pumpkins, measuring tape, weight scale, sidewalk chalk, paper, and pencil
- Draw lines to create three columns on the piece of paper. At the top of the first column write "Number." At the top of the next column write "Estimation," and at the top of the last column write "Result"
- Use the black marker to write a number on each pumpkin, starting with the number one, and then list all the numbers in the "Number" column of the paper
- Invite children to estimate how tall each pumpkin is, how wide each pumpkin is, how much each pumpkin weighs, and how far each one would roll
- Write their estimations on the paper
- Now invite children to measure how tall and wide each pumpkin is with the measuring tape, and how much each pumpkin weighs according to the scale
- Write those numbers on the paper in the "Results" column
- Discuss the differences in the numbers and how accurate estimating can be with these questions:
  - What was their process for estimating?
  - What did they base their "guess" on?
  - What affected how far the pumpkins could roll?
  - What would they do differently next time?
  - Why are tools like measuring tapes and scales more accurate than estimating?
- Explore other questions such as:
  - How many pumpkins would they have to stack to be as tall as they are?
  - How does each pumpkin's size compare to its shadow?

### What the activity does:

- Practices math skills like counting, weighing, measuring, and estimating
- Investigates the physical properties of a pumpkin
- Introduces mathematical vocabulary (estimation, scales, measuring, weighing)
- Explores the math and science concept of estimation versus verifiable results

