AbleNet
QuickTalker Freestyle®
LET THE CONVERSATION BEGIN



Halloween

Activity Guide

Four hands-on activities for building language this October.

How to Use This Guide

Each activity lists materials, step-by-step directions, target words, and adaptations. Select target words that match the individual's language stage. Modeling a handful of words repeatedly is more effective than modeling a long list once. **Use the pattern:** *say the word, touch the button, wait. The pause creates the turn-taking opportunity.*

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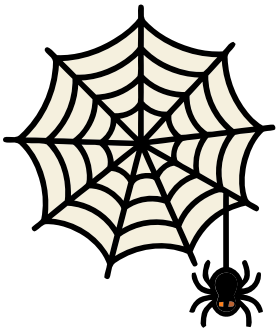
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Before you start

Model without expectation. These activities produce language learning whether or not the individual activates the device. What you model on the device today is what they'll reach for next month.



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1 Handprint Spider Art

Materials: Paper, paint brushes, washable black paint, googly eyes, wipes

Directions:

1. Paint the individual's hand with black paint, then press it onto the paper.
2. Wipe off and then paint their other hand.
3. Press it into the paper so the two palms meet in the center to create the body of the spider, with their fingers as the legs!
4. Let dry and add googly eyes and a mouth if desired!
5. While making the spider use AAC to talk about the process and your final result!

AAC TARGET WORDS

Verbs	paint, brush, push, help, wipe, wash
Adjectives	colors, wet, sticky, dry, fun, cool, spooky, silly
Nouns	spider, eyes, mouth, legs
Questions	where, how big, how many

QuickTalker Freestyle Tip

Paint and touchscreens don't mix. Seal the device in a clear sleeve before the paint comes out, and keep it on the student's non-painting side so there is always a clean hand free to reach it.

Adaptations

This craft can be adapted to accommodate a variety of needs! Try making spider web art instead by connecting a switch to a hand mixer using PowerLink. Dip the whisk end of the mixer into a paint color of your user's choosing and lower it to the paper. Have your user activate the switch to make their spider web design!



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2 Pumpkin Guts Sensory Bin

Materials: Pumpkin with top removed, empty bin or table you don't mind getting messy, spoons

Directions:

1. Scoop the inside of your pumpkin (or have the individual help you) into a bin.
2. Engage in some messy sensory fun with the individual!
3. While exploring texture, sensations, color, and smell, use AAC to talk about what you're experiencing and feeling!

AAC TARGET WORDS

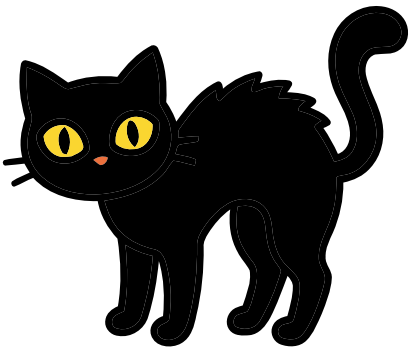
Verbs	touch, squish, hold, pat, smell, pull, scoop, dump
Adjectives	colors, wet, sticky, smelly, cold, stringy, fun
Feelings	like / don't like
Nouns	pumpkin, spoon, seeds, hand, fingers
Questions	How does it feel?, Do you like it?

QuickTalker Freestyle Tip

Keep wipes beside the device and clean hands before each turn. Angle the mount toward the bin so the student can look at the pumpkin, reach for a word, and look back without anyone repositioning the screen.

Adaptations

Scoop pumpkin guts into a gallon Ziploc bag for a more contained mess for individuals who may be more sensory defensive or to easily place on wheelchair tray!



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3 I Spy Activity

Materials: The printed I Spy sheet (included below)

Directions:

1. Print the I Spy sheet included below with Halloween items for you to find.
2. Before you begin, walk the route yourself and note which items on the sheet are actually there. Hallway bulletin boards, clinic decorations, and decorations outside are all fair game.
3. Take the individual to go "spy" the items on the sheet.
4. While looking use the AAC to describe the items they are looking for, discuss locations and more!

AAC TARGET WORDS

Verbs	go, look, see, help, stop
Adjectives	colors, shape, size, spooky, silly, pretty, fun
Directional Terms	up, down, on, right, left
Nouns	label the decorations, locations (outside, on a shelf, bulletin board, in a yard, on a house)
Questions	Do you see it?, Where is it?, Which is your favorite?

QuickTalker Freestyle Tip

This activity is on the move. Make sure the individual has a way to bring the device along, such as a strap or a wheelchair mount, so it stays within reach the whole time.

Adaptations

Incorporate assistive technology by programming a BIGMack button (or similar) to say, "I see it!" while searching!

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4 I Spy Sheet

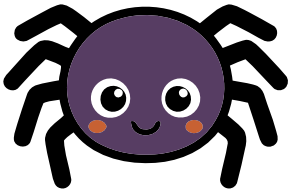
Check off each item as the individual spies it. Model the word on the device before you mark the box.



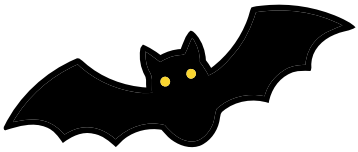
☐ Pumpkin



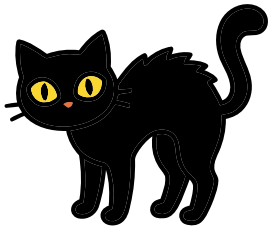
☐ Ghost



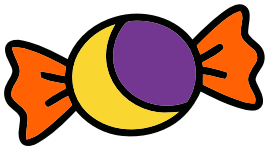
☐ Spider



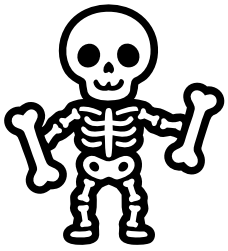
☐ Bat



☐ Black Cat



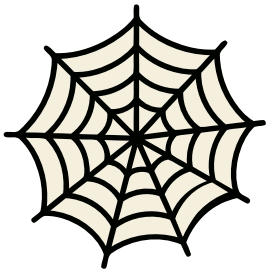
☐ Candy



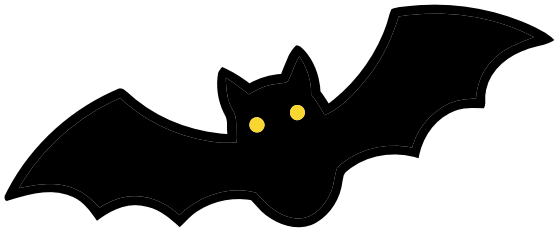
☐ Skeleton



☐ Witch Hat



☐ Spider Web



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5 Make a Play Dough Monster

Materials: Play dough, googly eyes, straws, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners, any other fun add ins you can think of (feathers, glitter, etc.)

Directions:

1. Set out your play dough and materials and create a monster with the individual!
2. You can make one yourself an example and use AAC to describe the monsters you make (e.g., size, shape, body parts, materials, etc.)

AAC TARGET WORDS

Verbs	roll, put, pat, squeeze, make
Adjectives	colors, shape, size, spooky, pretty, fun
Directional Terms	in, out, on, off, on top, on bottom
Nouns	label the body parts and materials you use to make them
Questions	What are you making? What will you add? Where will you put it?

QuickTalker Freestyle Tip

Build your own monster alongside theirs and narrate it on the device as you go. Describe what you are adding, where you are putting it, and what color you picked, using the same buttons the individual has available.

Adaptations

Incorporate assistive technology by using the All-Turn-It Spinner and a switch (or similar) in this activity! Assign a number 1-6 to the various body parts you will add to your monster. Use the switch activated spinner to see which body parts you will add!