



# LOOK LOOK LEARN, LLC

## MOTOR MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES

### The Chocolate Chip Ghost

by Meghan Peifer

The story The Chocolate Chip Ghost brings with it Halloween activities that are perfect for incorporate fine and gross motor movement activities. We love incorporating ghosts, pumpkins, black cats and witches into play. (And when we talk about movement and muscle growth, we not forget skeletons!) Below are some activities that will help you plan for motor movement activities that address muscle strengthening, crossing midline, coordination, pencil grip, scissor skills, pre-writing skills, and perceptual 'n body awareness skills. We encourage all our professionals to plan as a team (even if it means taking 5-minutes in the hallway), and plan ways to work together as a team with these activities. Please share your ideas & strategies that you experienced so that we may post them on LLL.

### **Fluffy Ghosts**

- \* Using our large ghost template [below], have children glue cotton balls to fill in the ghost;
- \* Children cut out the eyes and mouth of their choice, and glue the pieces on their ghost;
- \* Have children stretch the cotton balls prior to gluing;
- \* For gluing, either have children dip the cotton ball into a dish of glue, or squeeze liquid glue onto they ghost paper;
- \* When the ghosts are dry, children can attach yarn to their ghosts, or clip them onto a clothes hanger!

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### **Sensory Search**

We've enjoyed two different versions of a sensory search:

1. Using a pumpkin, cut the top off and let children help explore its "guts." Place Halloween-themed toys inside the pumpkin and have children search for them with their hand
2. Fill a large bowl or plastic "cauldron" with cooked and chilled spaghetti. (Add a little vegetable oil.) Add Halloween items to the "slimy" mixture for the kids to find.

Try providing a list with pictures of the items in the cauldron/pumpkin. Ask children to find a specific item!

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### Halloween Toss

- \* Print out our Halloween targets [template below], and fold along the dotted lines
- \* Place the targets on an elevated surface to throw bean bags at, or:
- \* Place the targets on the floor to roll a pumpkin (ball) at
- \* Cut holes in empty cardboard boxes, and stack them on top of one another. Kids toss bean bags into the box holes. (Decorate the boxes as pumpkins!)
- \* Take a piece of white fabric, and tie a tennis ball inside it. Add eyes to make a ghost face on the covered ball. The child now has a ghost to swing and toss to another peer, or a target. How far can your ghost fly? How high can it go?

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### Pumpkin Racing

- \* Using small pumpkins or gourds, have children race to move or collect the pumpkins;
- \* Relay races on scooters while carrying a gourd
- \* Sit-ups while hugging a pumpkin
- \* Rolling small pumpkins towards a target
- \* Moving a pumpkin as if it were a soccer ball
- \* Rolling a pumpkin to a friend
- \* Forming a "water brigade" line, children move gourds from one table to the another table
- \* Outdoors, throwing a small pumpkin
- \* While working at a small table, try using a pumpkin as a seat

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### Carving a Pumpkin / Separating the Seeds

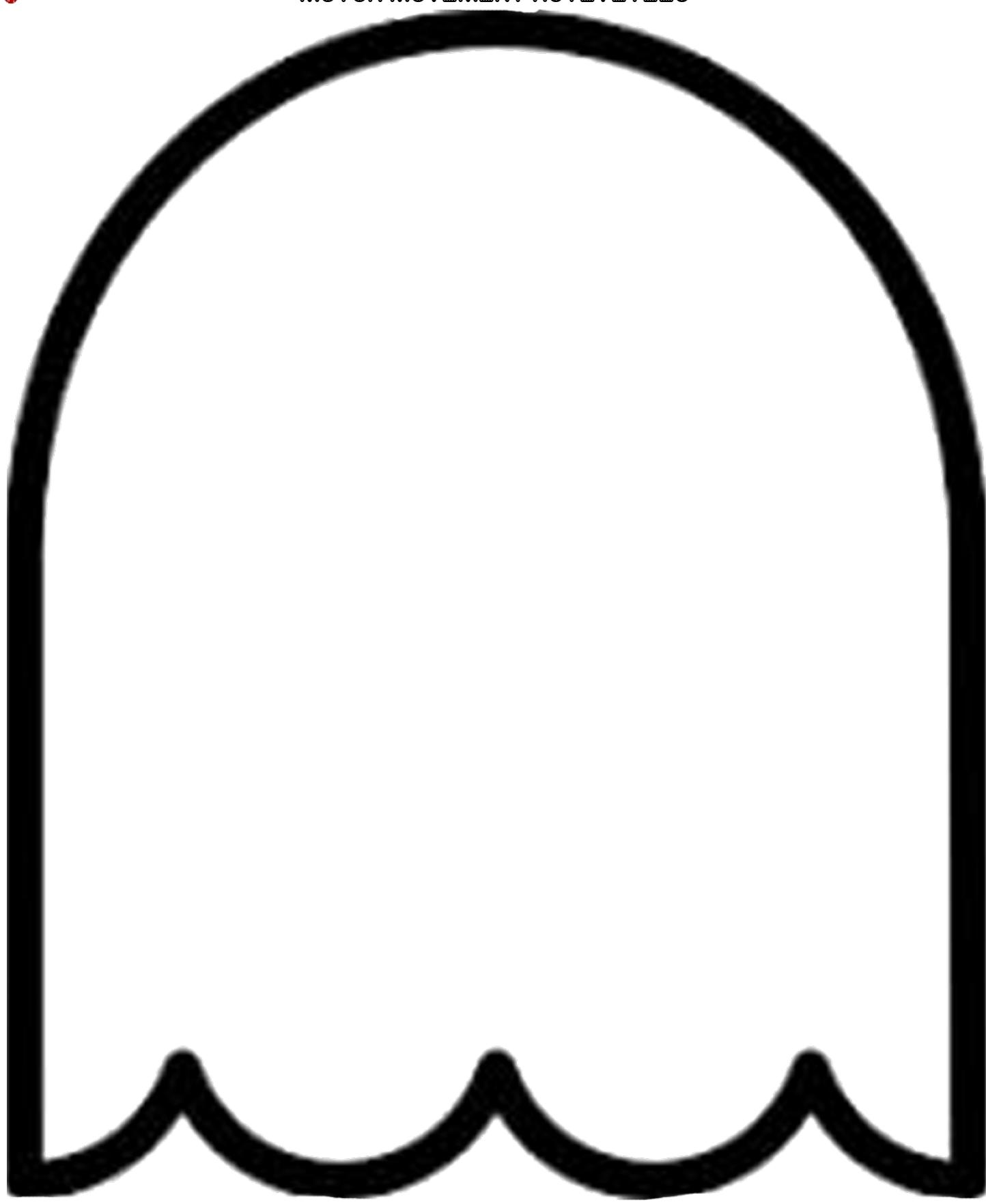
- \* Adult cuts top off of pumpkin
- \* Child helps remove the top (May need help)
- \* Using a metal or hard plastic spoon, have child scrape and clean-out the pumpkin (Place all the innards in a bowl for later)
- \* Adult scrapes inside so it is free of most all "stringy pieces"
- \* Have child help decide which type of facial features the pumpkin will have. (Triangle eyes? Circle nose? Angry face or surprised face? Etc.)
- \* Child helps draw the face using a permanent marker
- \* Adult cuts shapes , and then child pushes out the pieces. (Cut the mouth using in several sections, not one large section. This will help avoid breakage.)
- \* Once the pieces are all removed, add a candle or battery-operated light!
- \* Have child help separate the seeds from the stringy pieces, placing the seeds in a colander to rinse. Once rinsed, the seeds can be baked and salted !

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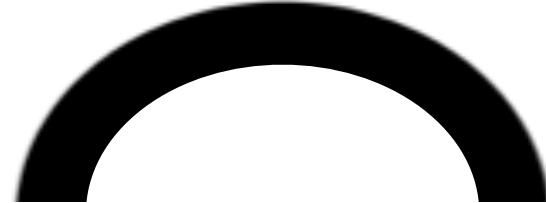
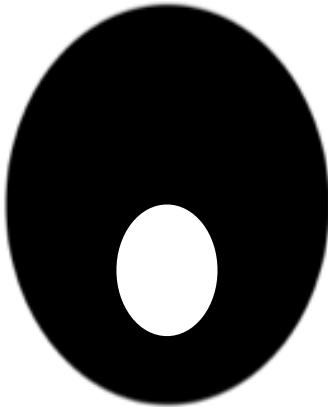
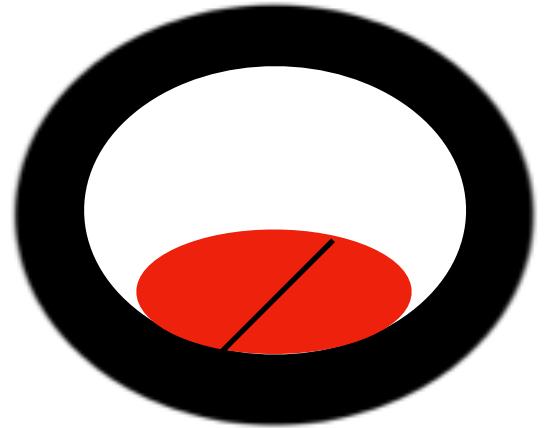
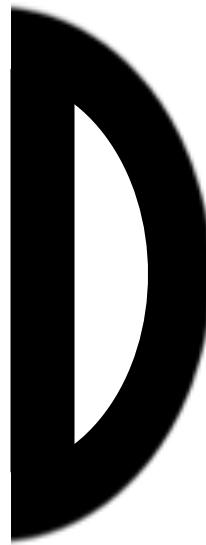
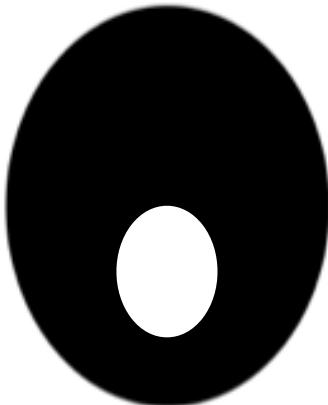
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- The shapes above are for the ghost's face. Turn the eyes horizontal, or vertical. The square images are "targets" for Halloween tossing games.





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