

PUMPKIN PATCH MATCH:

Sorting Big and Small

In our Busy Bees class, today's lesson was all about the joy of discovery—using pumpkins to explore big and small, matching, and sorting! The children gathered around two crates: one large and sturdy, and one smaller but equally inviting. Mrs. Eli introduced the activity, pointing to big, round orange pumpkins and small white pumpkins scattered all over the yard. "Look," she said with a smile, "God created all of these pumpkins, big and small. Today, we'll be working together to find out where each pumpkin belongs! If you find a small pumpkin, put it in the small crate. If you find a big pumpkin, place it in the big crate." The children leaned in, eyes wide, eager to begin gathering the pumpkins.

When the children were dismissed to collect their prized possessions spread all across the yard, the hustle and bustle of little feet was heard running to and fro. As the children chose which crate to deposit their prized pumpkin, they were practicing classification and comparison skills, a fundamental part of early math learning that builds cognitive awareness and observation skills. They began recognizing differences in size, weight, and texture as they handled each pumpkin, honing fine and gross motor skills by lifting and carefully carrying their pumpkins to the correct crate.



As each child successfully placed their pumpkins in the appropriate bin, they received congratulations from their teacher, fostering a spirit of encouragement and teamwork. Through these interactions, the children learned the Christian values of kindness and community.

As they finished up, the teacher gathered everyone around to talk about what they'd learned. Each child took turns holding a large and small pumpkin which gave Mrs. Eli the opportunity to foster a sense of autonomy, "See how God created each pumpkin differently? Just like us—big or small, we each have a special place and a purpose." This reinforced the Christian value of individuality, teaching them that everyone is special in God's eyes, no matter their size or shape.



Bringing It All Together

By the end of the activity, the children were beaming with pride as they held the small pumpkins – those seemed to be their favorites – high above their heads, having not only learned about sorting by size but also about the beauty of working together, supporting each other, and celebrating differences. Through something as simple as sorting pumpkins, they had practiced problem-solving, experienced joy in teamwork, and learned to appreciate God's unique creations. And as they looked over the filled crates, they left with a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that even small acts can have a big impact.