

The Family Halloween Activity Kit

A printable companion to Family Halloween Activities

Print this kit and keep it on the fridge. It gives you the full 30-activity planner with a tick box for each idea, an age-and-time reference card, a four-week countdown calendar, a party run-sheet, a trick-or-treat safety checklist and a set of window-silhouette templates to cut out — everything you need to run October without scrolling back through the article.

The 30-Activity Planner

Tick each idea as you do it and write the date beside it. By the end of the month you will have a record of what your family actually loved — which is the list worth repeating next year.

Activity	Best for	Time	Done
Garden candy hunt	Ages 3–10	15 min	
Paint pumpkins	Ages 2+	45 min	
Spooky movie night	Ages 5+	2 hours	
Neighbourhood costume parade	Ages 3–12	1 hour	
Bake something orange	Ages 4+	1 hour	
Pumpkin patch visit	All ages	Half a day	
Torchlight scavenger hunt	Ages 4–12	40 min	
Apple picking	All ages	Half a day	
Spooky stories by torch	Ages 5+	30 min	
Halloween party at home	Ages 4–12	2 hours	
Carve or decorate a pumpkin	Ages 3+	1 hour	
Blanket-fort haunted house	Ages 4–10	90 min	
Trick-or-treating	Ages 3–12	2 hours	
Make costumes together	Ages 5+	An afternoon	
Corn maze	Ages 5+	Half a day	
Craft night	Ages 3+	1 hour	
Candy bingo	Ages 4–10	30 min	
Toilet-paper mummies	Ages 3–8	20 min	
Handprint ghosts	Ages 2–6	30 min	
Learn a magic trick	Ages 6+	45 min	
Dress up the dog	Ages 4+	20 min	
Back-garden bonfire	Ages 6+	2 hours	

Activity	Best for	Time	Done
Hay ride	All ages	1 hour	
Spooky playlist dance party	Ages 2–8	30 min	
Trunk-or-treat	Ages 3–10	2 hours	
Window silhouettes	Ages 4+	45 min	
Halloween gingerbread house	Ages 5+	90 min	
Apple bobbing	Ages 6+	20 min	
Zoo or farm Halloween event	All ages	Half a day	
Spooky picnic	All ages	2 hours	

If you only do three things all season, make them the pumpkin painting, the torchlight hunt and the movie night. Those three cover making, moving and resting — roughly what a child wants from October.

Supply Checklist

Almost everything on the planner can come out of the house. Tick what you already have and note what you still need to pick up.

Supply	Used for	On hand?
Acrylic paint, orange and black	Painting pumpkins, handprint ghosts	
Paintbrushes, one per child	Painting pumpkins	
Newspaper or brown craft paper	Covering the table	
Wrapped sweets	Candy hunt, candy bingo, party table	
Toilet paper, two rolls per child	Toilet-paper mummies	
Black and orange card	Craft night, window silhouettes	
White washable paint	Handprint ghosts	
A deck of cards	Learning a magic trick	
Torches, one per child	Torchlight hunt, blanket fort	
Spare sheets and blankets	Blanket-fort haunted house	
Plain biscuits and icing	Party table decorating	
Paper cups and napkins	Party table	
Reflective tape	Costume visibility on the walk	
A teal pumpkin or a teal sign	Non-food treat option on the step	

Age and Time Reference Card

Match the activity to the hands in front of you. Offer one band below the age of the oldest child and let the younger ones join in at their own level.

Age	What they can actually do	Best activities	Watch for
Under 2	Squash, pour, mouth everything	Torch play, dance party, handprint ghosts	Anything that fits a toilet roll tube
2–3	Paint, wrap, repeat an action	Paint pumpkins, mummies, short candy hunt	Small parts, googly eyes, beads
4–5	Follow two steps, hold a brush	Craft night, handprint ghosts, candy bingo	Tiredness after 45 minutes
6–7	Read a simple list, take turns	Torchlight hunt, candy bingo, magic trick	Losing interest in long setups
8–10	Follow rules, want to win	Hunt as a race, haunted house, carving	Boredom if there is no challenge
11+	Plan, lead, run things	Run the party, photograph the evening	Being given a job, not an activity

Anything that fits inside a toilet roll tube is a choking risk for a child under three. Keep the small parts for the older children and give the little ones something they can hold with a whole hand.

The Four-Week Countdown

October goes quickly and the good events sell out before you have thought about them. Work down this list and the month stays calm.

When	Do this	Done
First week of October	Book the pumpkin patch, the zoo event and any hay ride	
First week of October	Buy the pumpkins and the paint	
Second week	Make the costumes, or at least decide them	
Second week	Text the neighbours about a costume parade	
Third week	Run the at-home activities: painting, craft night, movie night	
Third week	Bake and freeze anything you are making ahead	
Fourth week	Carve or finish the pumpkins	
Fourth week	Check the trick-or-treat route and costume visibility	
31 October	Do the walk, then come home and count the sweets together	

Leave one evening empty in the last week. That is the evening you will need when something runs late, someone is tired, or the weather cancels the plan.

Party Run-Sheet

Fill this in before the day and keep it on the kitchen counter. Ninety minutes is right for under-sixes; two hours for older children.

Start time _____ **End time** _____ **Number of children** _____

Activity 1 (moves) _____

Activity 2 (makes) _____

Activity 3 (quiet) _____

Food, served in the middle _____

Adults helping (one per two children under five) _____

Nut-free bowl kept separate? yes / no

Trick-or-Treat Safety Checklist

Ten minutes before you leave the house covers almost all of it.

- Costumes are short enough to walk in and bright enough to be seen — reflective tape or a torch added if the route is dark.
- Masks come off at crossings; a mask that covers the eyes is a trip hazard on a pavement.
- An adult walks with anyone under ten; older children go in a group with an agreed route and return time.
- Every sweet is checked at home, in the light, before anything is eaten.
- Anything unwrapped or homemade from a stranger goes in the bin.
- The route is agreed before you leave, and the youngest child carries a name and number card.
- Pumpkins with candles are never left where a costume can brush against them.
- The dog stays home on the busiest night of the year.

Window Silhouette Templates

Cut out these shapes from black paper and tape them to the inside of the window. From the street it looks like a properly decorated house, and it costs nothing. Add a torch behind them after dark for a shadow effect.

Bat	Fold the paper in half, draw one wing against the fold, and cut. Open it out for a symmetrical bat. Make three at different sizes.
Cat	A sitting cat is the easiest shape: a rounded body, two pointed ears and a long curved tail. Cut the tail separately and tape it on for a better curve.
Moon	A crescent is one smooth curve and one shallower one. Cut it large — a small moon disappears against a lit window.
Spider	A circle body with eight thin legs. Cut the legs as one piece with the body so nothing falls off when you tape it up.
Ghost	A rounded head and a wavy hem. Cut the wavy edge last, in one continuous line, so the shape stays even.
Pumpkin	A wide oval with a short stalk. Cut two small triangles for eyes and a jagged mouth from the offcuts and tape them on in a lighter colour.

This October — What We Actually Did

Write down the three or four things you did and what your family thought of each. It is the fastest way to plan next year.

Activity	Date	What they thought

Next Year's List

The activity they asked to do again is the one to put at the top of next year's list. Write the three keepers here while you still remember them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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