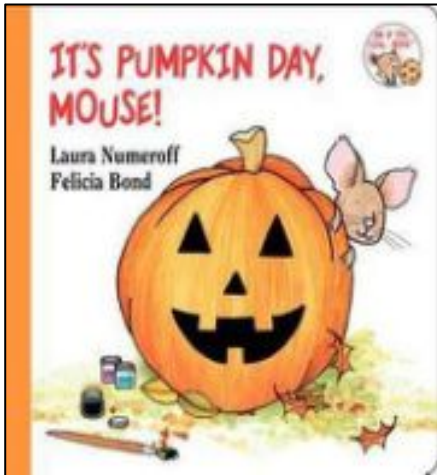


It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse!

Activity for Exploring Feelings
& Encouraging Early Communication



It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse! is a great book to use with toddlers and young children who are learning to communicate. There are many opportunities to elicit sounds, words, and word combinations. It also provides a fun context to talk about basic feelings!

I have included the following examples of some sounds, words, and word combinations that may be targeted when your little one is snuggled up with you reading this book.

For toddlers who are not yet talking, your child can playfully encourage them to imitate silly sounds:

For a list of FUN SOUNDS to encourage first words – check out my RESOURCE LIBRARY at mytoddlertalks.com

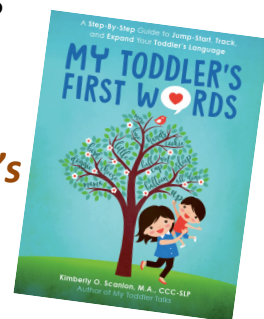
Fun Sounds
Hmmmm...
Oops!
Uh-oh!
Eek!
Boo!
Other:

For toddlers who have started imitating sounds and some words, try increasing their vocabulary by targeting some of the following words:

Single Words	
Happy	Silly
Scary	Spill
Surprised	Messy
Pumpkin	Mouse
Brush	Paint

Many of the adjectives (aka describing words) here are some universal emotions that all humans feel. Identifying and recognizing emotions helps toddlers to later develop emotional self-regulation skills. If you have a toddler who gets frustrated and or pinches and bites, it may be wise to emphasize feeling words with your little one.

Tip: According to research by the First Words Project, a model early identification and intervention program out of the department of Communication Disorders at Florida State University, "Knowing how to use objects helps children learn the names of objects. Many of the most common first words are names for objects that the child uses." Please keep this in mind when you think of words to target. More suggestions on how to target appropriate first words can be found in the book, *My Toddler's First Words: A Step-By-Step Guide to Jump-Start, Track, and Expand Your Toddler's Language.*



To encourage your toddler to combine words, expand and extend the single words that are already in his or her repertoire. These are just some suggestions...there are so many possibilities!

Word Combinations	
Uh-oh, paint!	Uh-oh, brush!
Drop brush	Paint pumpkin
Pumpkin book	Messy mouse
Happy face	Sad face
Silly face	Silly mouse

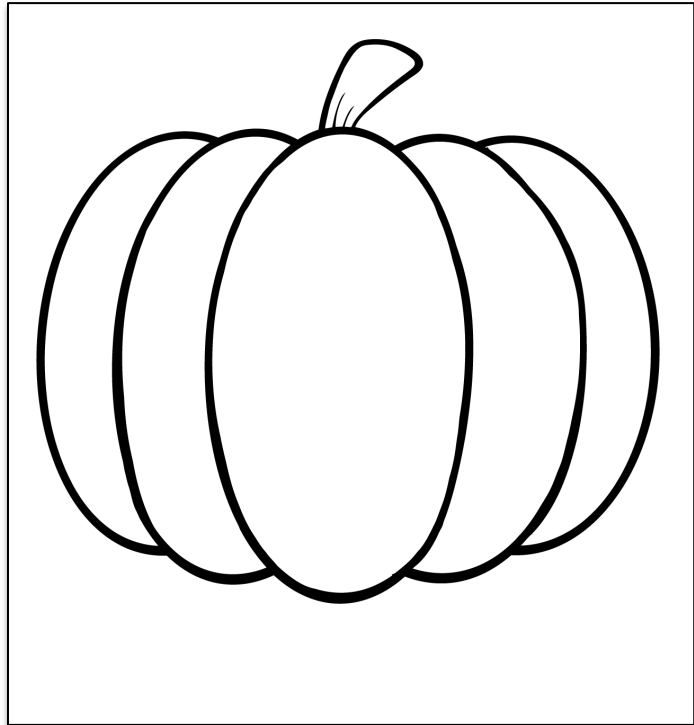
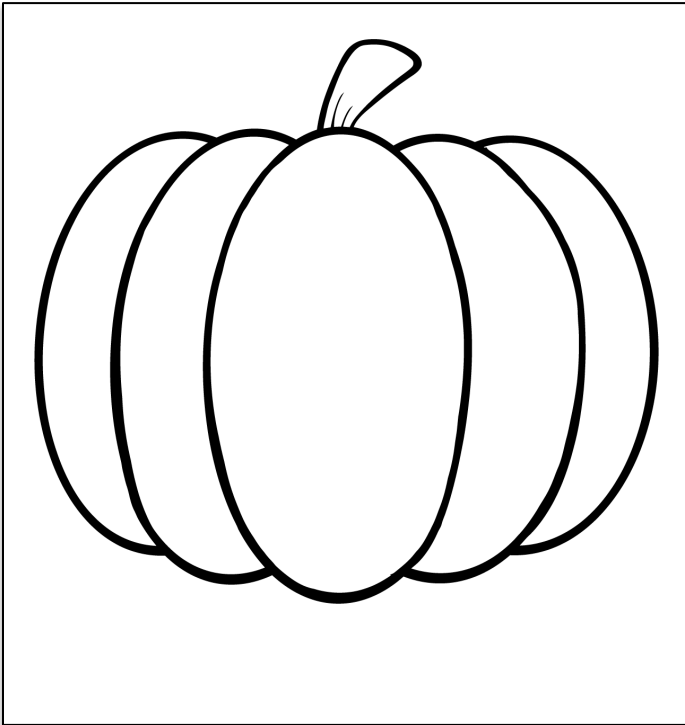
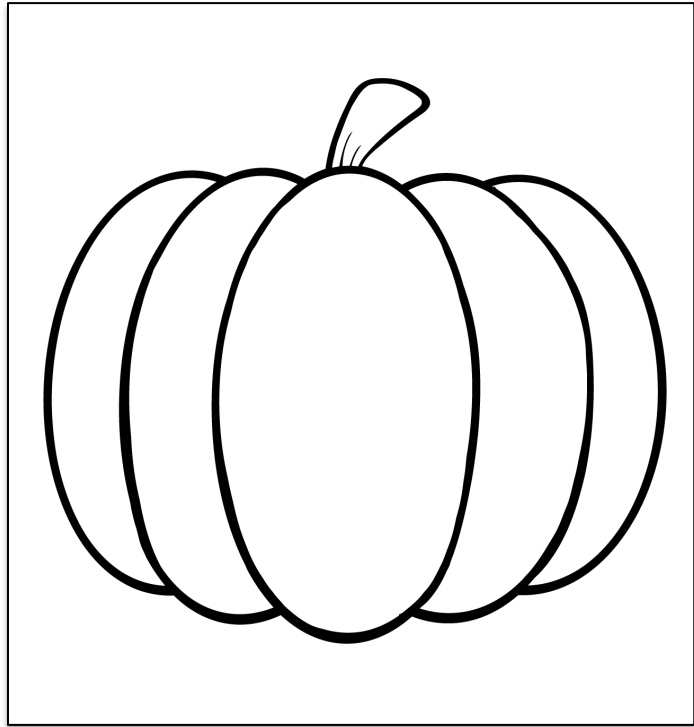
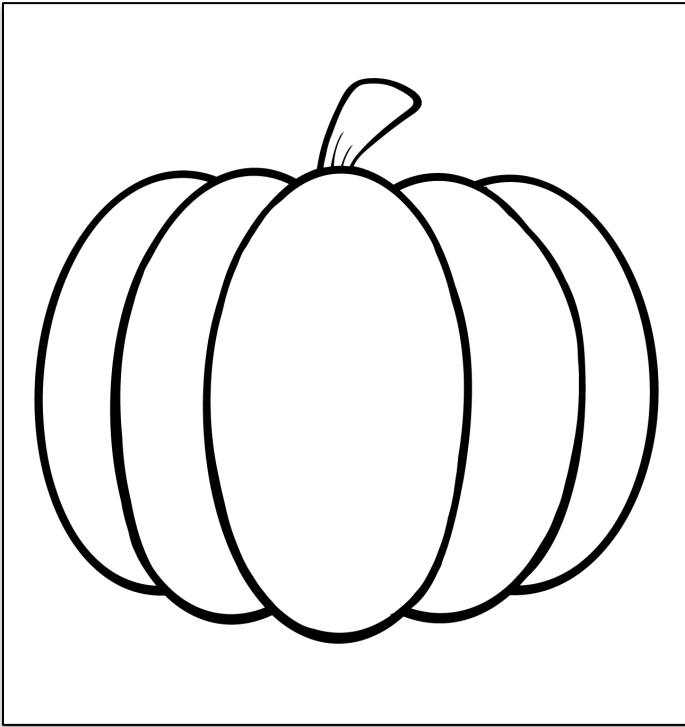
Tip: Remember to target a variety of types of words especially verbs as they drive word combinations!

What are some fun sounds, single words, and word combinations that you can target with your child? What sounds and words does your child make and say when you read this book with him or her?

Fill in some suggestions below:

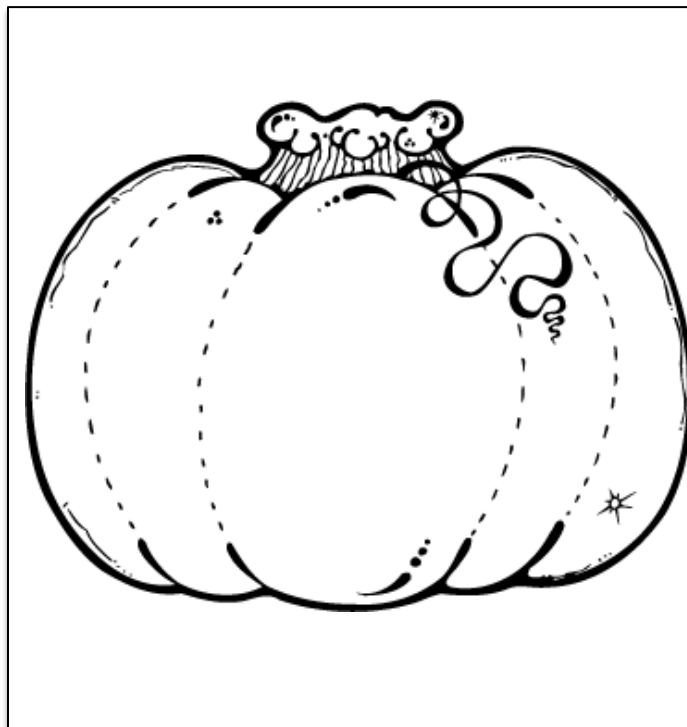
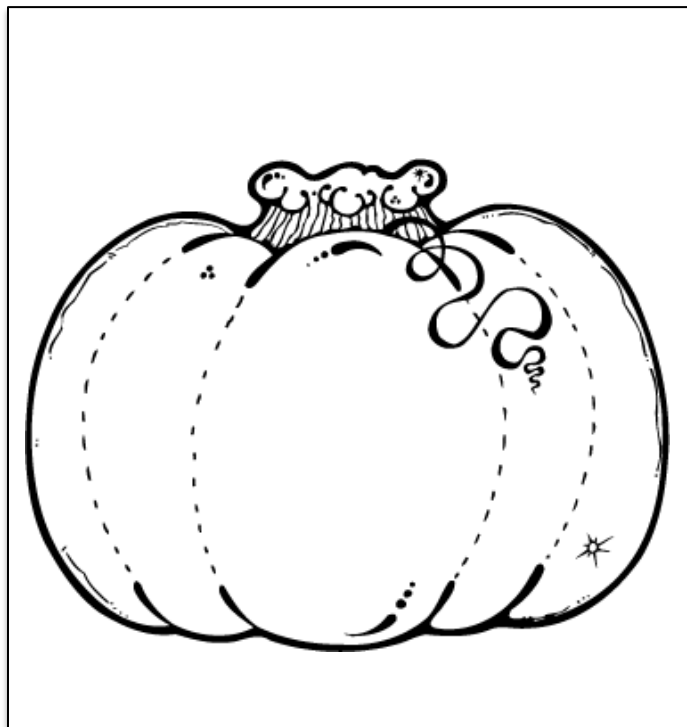
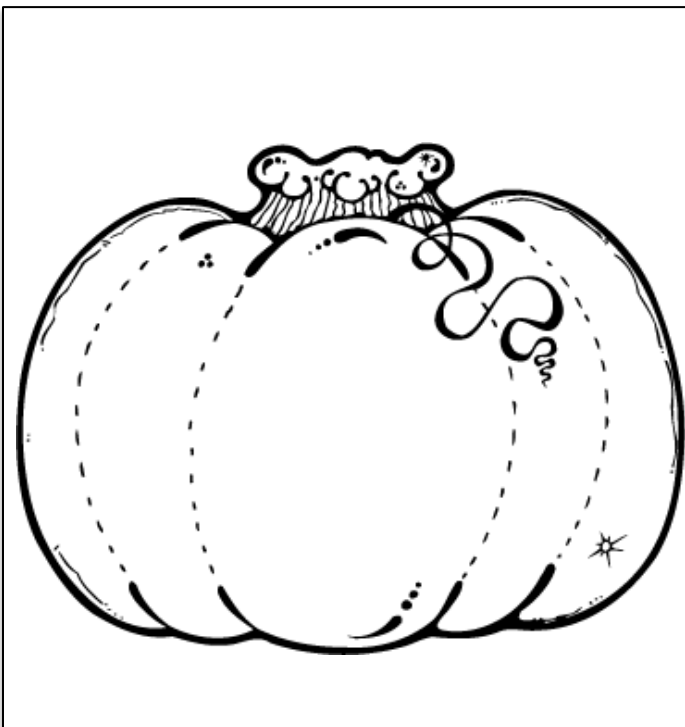


Potential Target Words:



It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse! Activity for Language Development

Directions: Color the pumpkins with your toddler and talk about what you and your toddler are doing. Use self-talk and parallel-talk. See the cheat sheet in the resource library at www.mytoddlertalks.com for more language elicitation and modeling techniques.



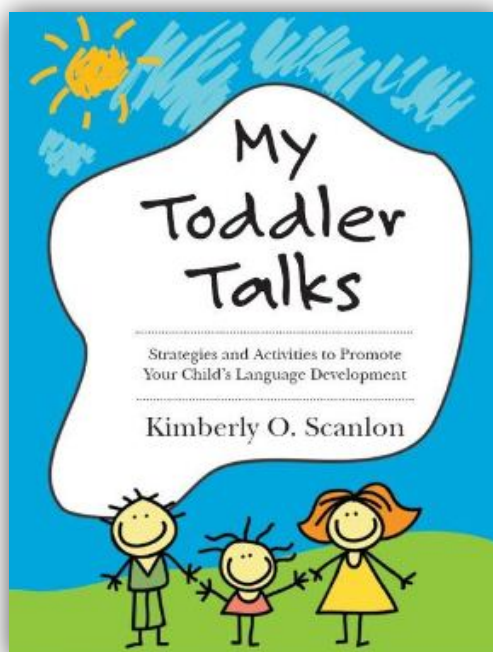
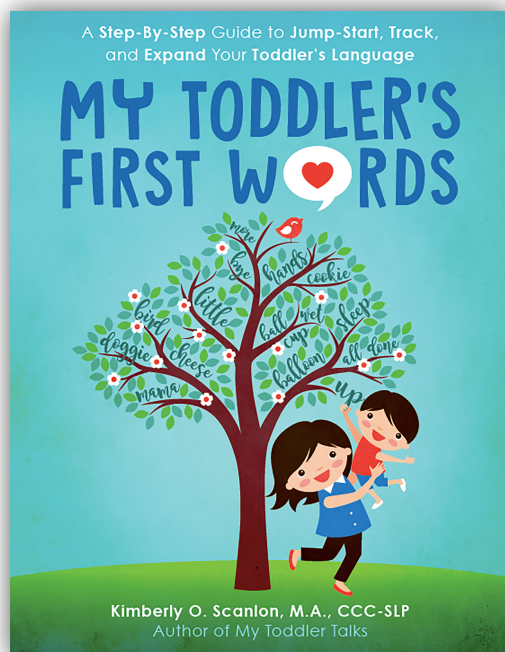
***It's Pumpkin Day, Mouse!* Activity for Exploring Feelings**

Directions: After reading the book, draw the facial expressions that were depicted in the book! Use self-talk and parallel-talk. See the cheat sheet in the resource library at www.mytoddlertalks.com for more language elicitation and modeling techniques.

More Resources to Stimulate Toddler Language Development

Go to mytoddalertalks.com to download FREE resources in my Special Resources Library.

Books to help encourage first words and early word combinations:



amazon