



## October Adventures: Fun, Learning & Cultural Explorations

As we welcomed October, our preschoolers dove into engaging activities centered around safety, seasonal changes, and cultural appreciation. Here's a look at some of the highlights that made this month both educational and memorable!

### ■ FIRE SAFETY WEEK

This month's Fire Safety Week was a hands-on journey through essential safety practices. Children learned about emergency responses, including making a fire escape plan, recognizing the sound of smoke detectors, and practicing the "stop, drop, and roll" technique. The excitement peaked with a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog and discussions on how to dial 911. The kids enjoyed exploring the world of first responders, strengthening their awareness of community helpers.

### ■ HEALTH & HYGIENE

We emphasized the importance of good hygiene as part of our ongoing commitment to safety. Lessons included washing hands, proper bathroom etiquette like flushing and wiping, and keeping clothes clean. These practices help children develop lifelong habits for health and cleanliness.

### ■ CULTURAL EXPLORATION

**Hispanic Heritage** — Our celebration of Hispanic Heritage continued into mid-October, with the children exploring cultural traditions, flags, countries, and bilingual stories. Josiah and Ms. Brenda shared aspects of their heritage, enriching our appreciation for diversity through food tasting and stories. The children were eager learners, celebrating the colors and flavors of Hispanic culture.

**Indigenous People's Day** — In honor of Indigenous People's Day, our preschoolers explored Native American culture, learning about their respect for nature and the land. Activities included stories and art projects inspired by nature, fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and different cultural perspectives.

### ■ FALL FUN AND NATURE OBSERVATIONS

The spirit of fall inspired our learning as the children observed animals preparing for winter. We discussed squirrels, bears, and bats' hibernation habits and explored changes in plant life. Pumpkins became a focal point, with children tracing their journey from seed to sprout, observing how they turn from green to yellow and orange,

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# Fun Learning Adventures

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and measuring their growth. This hands-on exploration encouraged our preschoolers to engage with nature actively.

## ■ HANDS-ON LEARNING WITH MEASUREMENTS

Our young scientists practiced using rulers to measure pumpkins and compare sizes—big or small, tall or short. These early measurement activities sparked curiosity about numbers and physical properties, laying the groundwork for math skills. [View photos.](#)

## ■ ARTS & CRAFTS

Pumpkin season came alive with our scarecrow and apple crafts! The kids used creativity and teamwork to build friendly scarecrows plus make stamp paintings using apples. [View photos.](#)

## ■ READ! READ! READ!

The children in our care read books daily through interactive read-aloud or during storytime. We often combine storytime with fun, hands-on activities to help develop literacy skills.

Ms. Kelly, our visiting Fairfax County early learning library specialist, engaged the kiddos in a fun reading of *There's a Dragon In Your Book* by Tom Fletcher. This story invites the kids to use their powers of imagination, stamping, blowing, and flapping, to save their book from an adorable baby dragon's flammable sneeze! Check out these delightful links: View [Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#).

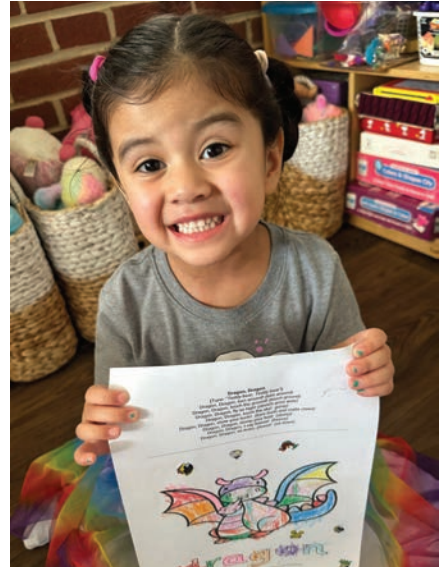
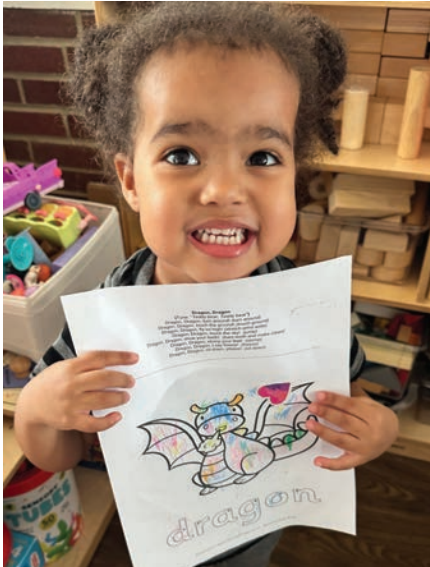


## ■ OCTOBER KEYWORDS

This month's focus was on friendship, cooperation, collaboration, teamwork, sharing, caring, hygiene, culture, hibernation, and the joys of the fall season. We are proud of how these themes have enriched our preschoolers' learning experiences.

## ■ FUN, GROWTH, AND SEASONAL LEARNING AT JCC!

We always aim to create joyful educational experiences that shape well-rounded learners. We're thrilled to share these moments of growth and discovery with you. Here's to more adventures next month!





Monica Jackson is owner and Director of Jackson Child Care (JCC). Our mission at JCC is to learn, play and grow together! We provide a safe, nurturing, child-centered setting that fosters each child's success and a love of learning in collaboration with parents and the community. We are committed to building a successful early learning foundation to equip children with school readiness skills. We operate according to safety protocols that adhere to the Center for Disease Control and Department of Health Guidelines.

We are currently enrolling children for our preschool program. For information, please contact Monica at 703-354-5913 or [jacksonchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonchildcare@gmail.com). Visit us on the web ([www.mjchildcare.com](http://www.mjchildcare.com)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/mjchildcare](http://www.facebook.com/mjchildcare)).

# FALL SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Back-to-school is in full swing, and cooler days are setting in. Keep kids safe this Autumn:



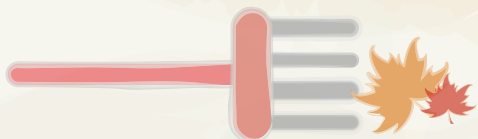
With daylight growing shorter, kids still like to play outside on warm evenings. Make sure kids wear bright-colored clothing and sneakers so drivers can easily see them.

- Hold your child's hand in parking lots. Cars backing out of parking spaces will have a harder time spotting young children when it's dark outside.

Check playground equipment for sharp edges, faulty equipment, and make sure kids can't squeeze their heads between bars.



Always have your child wear protective sports gear, even if she's practicing alone at home.



Kids may want to help rake leaves and play in the leaf piles. Keep sharp, dangerous tools stored away and out of sight of children.

Teach children to wash their hands often to avoid getting sick and spreading germs.



Avoid pediatric burns by always checking the temperature of hot soup, water and cider before serving to children.



With the holidays fast approaching: Check gifts for loose strings and ribbons, as they could strangle or choke young children.

- Store gift wrapping materials out of sight of young children.
- Check all decorative materials for fire hazards.
- Use plastic or flameless candles to avoid burns and fires.
- Keep young children out of the kitchen and away from hot ovens. Turn pot handles inward and out of the reach of children.

Dress children in weather-appropriate clothing to avoid sickness and the common cold.

- Choose light layers and remove damp clothing immediately.

Make sure your childcare center has safe, evening pick up protocols in place.

- As it gets dark outside, unwanted tailgaters may try to follow parents into the facility. Make sure security cameras and standard pick up and drop off procedures are in use.
- Make sure the parking lot is brightly lit, and free of tall bushes and dumpsters, as they can create hiding places.

