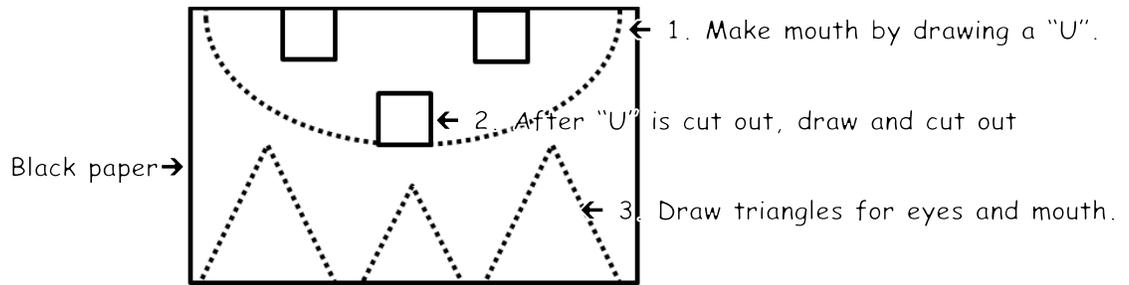# Pumpkin Sewing

Did you know that sewing and threading activities are one of the best ways to help students develop fine motor skills? Sewing requires the use of a dominant hand (with "pinchers" to hold and thread the yarn) and a helper hand (to hold the item you are sewing), all while developing hand-eye coordination. Activities using both hands, like sewing, require students to pick a preferred hand, encouraging those who do not yet have a dominant hand to pick one.

Materials Needed: orange cardstock (10"x13"), black cardstock (4"x5"), green yarn (~1.5m/student), masking tape, hole punch, scissors, white glue, white pencil crayons

1. Print off the attached template (I enlarge my template to fill a 10"x13" piece of cardstock).
2. Cut one per student out of orange cardstock and punch holes all around the outside.
3. Tie a piece of green yarn to the one of the holes near the top of the pumpkin. (Make a sample to ensure you cut your yarn long enough).
4. Wrap a piece of tape around the end of the yarn so that it is easy to thread through all the holes. (I send all needed supplies home with parent volunteers so they can do all the prep work for me at home).
5. Students sew around the pumpkin. We talk about patterns that we could do while sewing (up, down, up, down, or down and around, down and around, down and around, or up and around, up and around, up and around). For this one, I show them go up and around through all the holes to make a cool design around the outside.
6. When they are done sewing, I tie the yarn or have students tape it to the back of the pumpkin with masking tape.
7. To make faces for our pumpkins, students each get a small piece of black paper. I show them how to draw and cut smiles (first they draw and cut out a U on the edge of the

paper and then they can cut away the teeth) and triangles for eyes and a nose (using the edge of the paper, it is "one slide, then another, just like when you make an A").

Black paper→

← 1. Make mouth by drawing a "U".

← 2. After "U" is cut out, draw and cut out

← 3. Draw triangles for eyes and mouth.

8. Students then use white glue to glue on their faces.

Pumpkin Template