

PUMPKIN HEROES



Patch the Pumpkin
is here to shine!

Enjoy my
Storybook, film,
activities, crafts,
games and
Patch the
Pumpkin Show!

Dear Friends,

Every year, we have the absolute joy of bringing Pumpkin Heroes to church groups, schools and families like yours across the UK.



So, we're delighted it's back as this Halloween, Patch learns about sharing friendship, places and things!

"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9
International Children's Bible.

Like before, we're encouraging you to do Pumpkin Heroes your way!

Whether you run an action-packed Pumpkin Heroes event/party or the children watch the *Patch the Pumpkin Show* – all include fun-filled games, crafts, activities, and of course, the new story and film *Patch the Pumpkin, Challenge Accepted!*

And no matter how you choose to enjoy Pumpkin Heroes, we'll be praying the children have a great time.



Beverley

Beverley Law
Pumpkin Heroes Manager

P.S. We'd also be super grateful if you're able to give a donation to help the children who don't have enough, yet inspire us to tell their stories in Pumpkin Heroes.

Donate



At World Vision, our focus is on helping the world's most vulnerable children overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. For 75 years, we have worked together with communities – of all faiths and none – even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

LET'S GET STARTED

READY

How, when and what you do for Pumpkin Heroes – is up to you.

On Halloween, 31 October or during autumn half term, the choice is yours!

STEADY

You might want to plan an event/party where you watch or read *Patch the Pumpkin, Challenge Accepted!* play the games, and do all the activities.

GO

Or maybe the children would simply prefer to watch the *Patch the Pumpkin Show* which includes crafts, games and the new story, too. (see page 9).



THE OBSTACLE CHALLENGE!



In this year's story, **Patch the Pumpkin** discovers that sometimes things get in the way. And that can make life difficult.

Patch is challenging your children to complete these obstacle challenges.

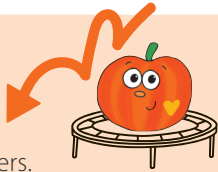


Hi! I'm Patch!

PATCH'S ZIG ZAG RUN

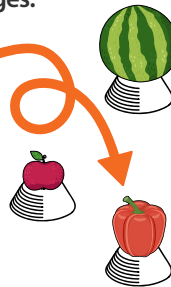
What to do:

- Set up a zig zag course with cones or any markers.
- On the first attempt, have the children – one at a time – weave in and out of the course. How easy is it for them? How fast can they do it?
- Next, scatter the course with obstacles (for example, boxes or tins of food, fruit and veg, pumpkins).
- Get the children to try again, this time stopping to pick up all the obstacles.
- Who can get to the end fastest with all the obstacles in their hands?



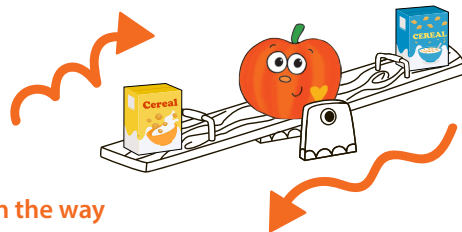
Adapt your course to the children's age and ability.

Older children could hop the course or you could turn it into a hopscotch. It's your challenge!



Once the game's over and you've all caught your breath, **ask the children how they found The Obstacle Challenge.**

What was the course like without the obstacles? **How did it change when the obstacles were added?** Did they expect it to be more difficult?



Share about how things like hunger get in the way and stop children like Maryam sleeping, playing with her friends and going to school. Talk about how extreme weather, like floods and droughts, mean children often don't have enough food so they go to bed hungry and wake up without the energy they need to walk to school and concentrate in class.



MARYAM'S STORY

At 15 years old, Maryam was forced to leave her childhood home, because she is living through the worst drought Somalia has seen in 40 years. With crops withering, livestock dying and famine looming she was forced to flee in search of food.

Maryam knew how hunger felt: a growling stomach, low energy, dizziness, problems focusing, and more. Still, nothing could have prepared her for the difficult walk ahead.

Travelling under scorching heat she shares "We spent three days on the road. [...] Our donkey cart broke. [...] We lost some livestock on our way and left others on

the road. It was horrible. Several [of my siblings] collapsed from thirst and had to be rescued by nearby families who provided us with water."

Despite the odds, Maryam and her younger siblings made it to an aid centre, where World Vision is working with the World Food Programme. For now, it means Maryam has food.

As appropriate, you might want to chat further with the children about Maryam's story and choose to support children like Maryam with a donation or fundraising activity.



Donate



We'd also be super grateful if you're able to give a donation to help the children who don't have enough, yet inspire us to tell their stories in Pumpkin Heroes.

PUMPKIN FUN & GAMES



GAME: "ENOUGH?"

What do you need: Two large containers – buckets, wastepaper bins or washing up bowls. You get the idea. Old newspapers or sand. Coloured paper to cut out loaves and fishes.

How to play

- 1: Fill two containers with crumpled newspaper or sand.
- 2: Hide the cardboard loaves and fishes. Cut out more than enough for every child to find one of each. Evenly divide loaves and fishes between the two containers and mix in.
- 3: The children will divide into two teams and each child takes a turn to run to the tub and find a loaf and a fish. When they have one of each, they run back to their team and tag the next person.

Goal: The goal is to see which team collects the loaves and fishes first. The quickest team shouts *ENOUGH!* and wins.

Take-away: Did the children feel panicky and scared that they wouldn't find the bread and the fish? What if it been real food they needed? Would the team that found the food first share it with the others?

GAME: FLICK THE PIPS



What do you need: Print, paint or draw a picture of Patch. Dried pumpkin seeds.

How to play

- 1: Have a picture of Patch in the middle of the table. Each child who is playing is given the same amount of dried (hard) pumpkins seeds.
- 2: Taking it in turns, each child must flick their pips (tiddly winks) onto Patch (the target).
- 3: To make it harder you could give each part of Patch a different score. Land your pip on Patch for 2 points, his nose for 5 points and his heart for a whopping 10 points!

ACTIVITY: PATCH LIGHTS THE WAY

What do you need: Carving pumpkins, Carving equipment. Paper, pens, glue or other adhesive. Battery tealights. Treats.



- 1: Carve pumpkins with Patch's heart and draw or stick his face on the pumpkins.
- 2: Hide, create a trail with the pumpkins in or around your church – or even around your community.
- 3: Have the children find the pumpkins on the trail, create a worksheet and clues if needed, have a story, poem, prayer about sharing at each pumpkin station and a treat for the children who complete the trail.

GAME: PATCH'S LIGHT

Before your event carve a pumpkin with Patch the Pumpkin's heart and draw or stick his face on the pumpkin.

Telling the story



- 1: In front of the children hold the pumpkin turned around so that the kids see only a plain pumpkin. You could ask them questions about what they see to keep them engaged.
 - 2: Then show how God cleans up the "yuck" inside us. Leave a handful of pumpkin seeds and fleshy goop inside either for volunteer children or yourself to scoop out and make clean.
 - 3: Pop a lit LED tea light into the pumpkin and explain how God replaces the "yuck" with His light.
 - 4: Then turn around the pumpkin for the children to see the light shining out of Patch. And explain this is how God's light shines out of each of us when we know Jesus.
- HINT** Dry pumpkin seeds and add to your bird feeder or sow them next year. And compost or leave your non-painted carved pumpkins away from the house for wild animals to enjoy.

PATCH'S FUN & GAMES



More
games!

PIP, PIP, PUMPKIN

Patch's version of Duck, Duck, Goose.

1: The children sit in a circle and one child is chosen to walk around the outside. As they walk around, they tap the player's heads and say whether they are a "pip" or a "pumpkin".

2: Once a child is tagged as the "pumpkin" they get up and chase the other child around the circle. The goal is for the "pumpkin" to catch the child who tagged them before they are able sit/stand in the "pumpkin's" original place.

3: The child left standing repeats the game. "pip, pip, pip...pumpkin" run!

FAST FOOD!

What do you need: Dressing up clothes – ideally hats, scarves and gloves. Cutlery. Blocks of chocolate



1: The children line up or sit in a group(s). Each group needs at least two hats, scarves, and gloves.

2: The first child in the group(s) rolls the dice and when they get a six they dress up in a hat, scarf and gloves, run to a table where they need to cut a block of chocolate with a *knife and fork and try to eat a piece – or as much as they want to before the next child has thrown a six. That child then dresses up in a hat, scarf, and gloves and has their turn, while the first child returns to the group and removes the hat, scarf, and gloves ready for the next child.

3: It's often chaos, and the throwing of sixes often happens quicker than the chance to eat much chocolate.

Take-away: Afterwards you could ask the children how it felt when they didn't get to eat any chocolate. And did those who ate lots of chocolate feel bad for their friends who didn't?

*Adults/helpers to swap cutlery each time a child has a turn. Biodegradable cutlery is an option. And always check children's dietary requirements and allergies.

FEEL IT, SQUEAL IT!

What do you need: Squishy, slimy foods. Bowls/box to hide the food. Blindfold.

1: Get a selection of foods that the children need to feel and guess...while blindfolded.

2: Make sure you have a selection of food with different textures - those that are squishy or slimy usually get the children squealing! It's amazing how different food can feel when you can't see or smell it – especially if you plant an idea about what it might be!

3: Spaghetti could be worms, tapioca pudding frogs spawn, a Cumberland sausage ring – a snake, raisins could be sheep poo, a furry coconut could be an animal of some kind and a spiky pineapple a snappy sea creature. You decide. The funnier the better!

4: Children are blindfolded and coming up one at a time have to guess what they are feeling. Make sure the group don't give them any clues!



Image © Unsplash

PATCH THE PUMPKIN TV SHOW

Instead of an event or party for the children in your church group, school or family, you might prefer to keep it simple – but have just as much fun!

Together watch Patch the Pumpkin's Show! Action-packed with games, crafts, activities and cartoon story fun too.



**WATCH IT
ONLINE:**

[worldvision.org.uk/
pumpkin-heroes-pack](http://worldvision.org.uk/pumpkin-heroes-pack)

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you, God, for everything.

Amen



Emily, 7, enjoying a nutritious meal in Honduras.
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*"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave.
So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you
everywhere you go."*

Joshua 1:9 International Children's Bible.

BOTTOM IMAGE Nayon, 6, from Bangladesh, now has enough to eat, thanks to World Vision supporters.
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SHINE REAL BRIGHT

CHORUS 1:

D D/F# A/F#
Share God's love
G G/A A7
Shine God's light
D D/F# A/F#
We're Pumpkin Heroes
G/A D
And we'll shine real bright (repeat)

CHORUS 2:

D D/F# A/F#
We're gonna shine
G G/A A7 D D/F# A/F#
We're gonna shine
G/A D
Shine real bright (repeat)

VERSE 1:

Bm E7
Everybody in the world
G2 D/F#
Needs God's love, God's love
Bm E7
Every sad and lonely child
G2
Needs God's love,
D D/F# A/F# G G/A A7
Let us shine!

VERSE 2:

Bm E7
Everybody who's afraid
G2 D/F#
Needs God's light, God's light
Bm E7
Every dark and scary place
G2
Needs God's light
D D/F# A/F# G G/A A7
Let us shine!

Why not make up your
own actions
for the song?

You can share videos of your
song performances with
us @WorldVisionUK and
#pumpkinheroes

And if you want to sing-along with
the Shine Real Bright song – find it
online at [worldvision.org.uk/
pumpkin-heroes-pack](http://worldvision.org.uk/pumpkin-heroes-pack)

NOTE:

Chorus one and chorus
two can be sung over
the top of each other
forming a bit of harmony.
Both parts are really
simple – so give it a go!



**“Remember that I commanded you
to be strong and brave. So don’t be
afraid. The Lord your God will be
with you everywhere you go.”**

Joshua 1:9 International Children’s Bible.

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