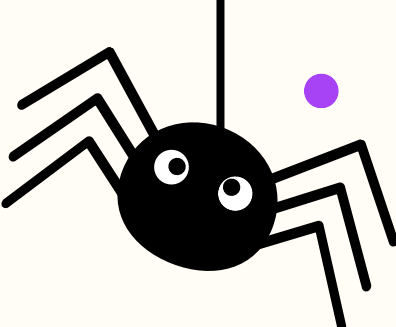




OTR

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2026

What's Happening!

October is going to be spooktacular at Over the Rainbow! We have a month full of fun themes, hands-on activities, learning opportunities, and plenty of fall fun planned for our little learners. 🌈



🚒 Fire Trucks & Fire Prevention Week

We'll kick off the month by learning all about fire safety and our community helpers! Children will explore what firefighters do, learn about fire prevention and safety, and have fun with firetruck-themed activities. We'll talk about important safety skills in a fun and age-appropriate way.

🎃 Pumpkin Week

Pumpkin week is all about celebrating one of our favorite signs of fall! Children will explore pumpkins through sensory activities, art projects, stories, science experiments, and hands-on exploration. We'll investigate pumpkins—inside and out—and enjoy plenty of pumpkin-themed fun!

👹 Monsters Week

Get ready for some not-so-scary monster fun! 👁️

💚 During Monsters Week, we'll use our imaginations with silly monster stories, crafts, sensory activities, and creative projects. Our monsters will be fun, friendly, and maybe a little bit goofy!

👻 Halloween Week

We'll wrap up October with a week full of Halloween excitement! 🎃👻 Children will enjoy spooky-but-silly stories, Halloween-themed art, music, sensory play, and classroom activities. We'll celebrate the season while keeping things fun and age-appropriate for all of our little ones.

💖 We Can't Wait for October!

From firetrucks to pumpkins, silly monsters to Halloween, there is so much to look forward to! We're excited for a month filled with learning, laughter, creativity, and making special memories together.

Upcoming Events

10/5 Kids Music Day

10/6 Mad Hatter Day- Decorate for Alice and Wonderland and Make crazy hats

10/12 Holiday Wishes fundraiser orders due

10/13 National Train Your Brain Day- Children and staff play memory and puzzle games

10/16 National Sports day

10/23 Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Week of 10/26-Pumpkin Judging by parents
Winner announced 10/30

10/27 Black Cat Day- Cat Crafts

10/28 Spooky Night Cheshire 6-7pm

10/29 Trunk or Treat Hamden 6-7pm

10/30 Halloween parades and parties 3pm

Contact Info

info@overtherainbowkids.com

Executivedirector@overtherainbowkids.com

Regional@overtherainbowkids.com

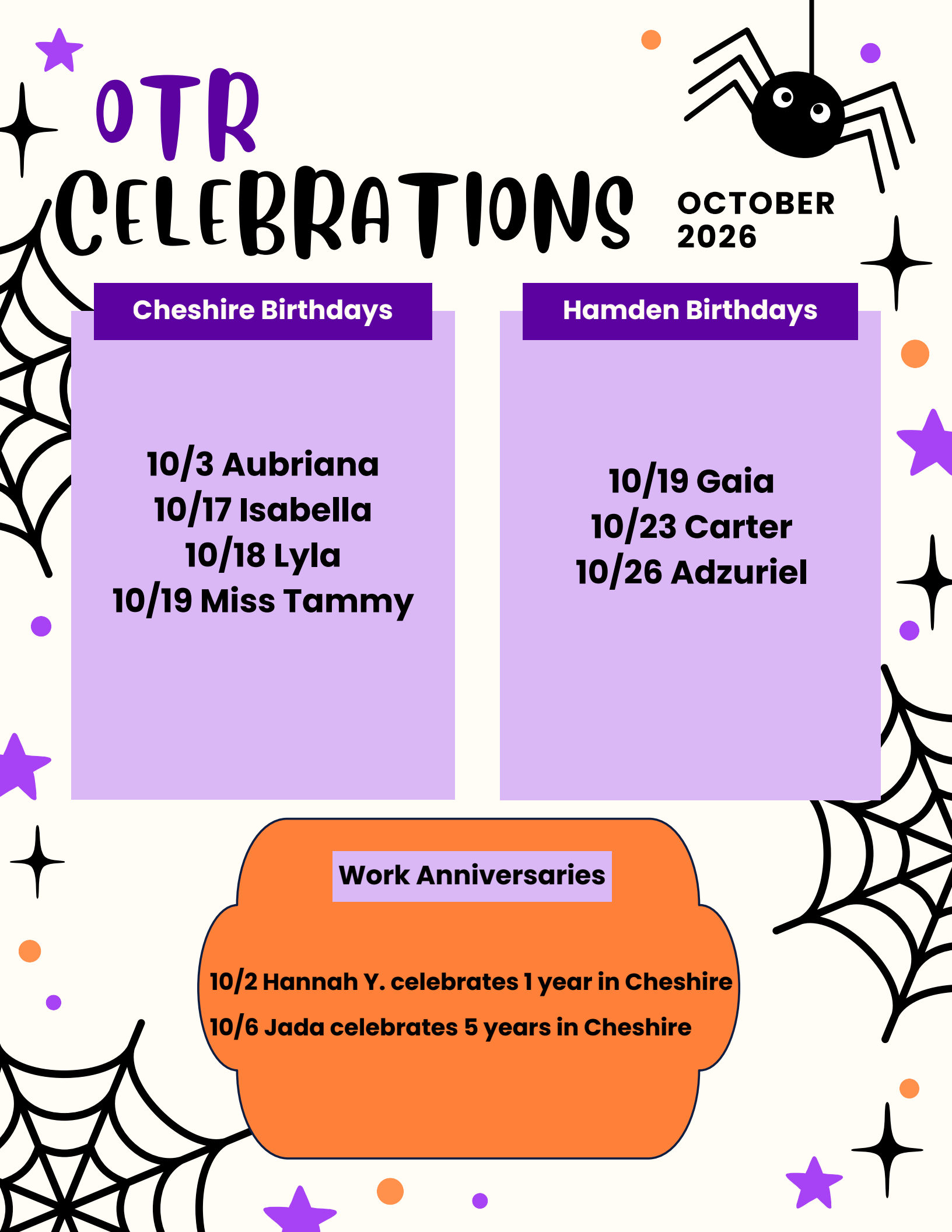
Director.Cheshire@overtherainbowkids.com

Hamden2@overtherainbowkids.com

Cheshire- (203) 699-9900

Hamden- (203) 230-8449

Enrollment questions? (860) 637-3363



OTR CELEBRATIONS

**OCTOBER
2026**

Cheshire Birthdays

**10/3 Aubriana
10/17 Isabella
10/18 Lyla
10/19 Miss Tammy**

Hamden Birthdays

**10/19 Gaia
10/23 Carter
10/26 Adzurriel**

Work Anniversaries

**10/2 Hannah Y. celebrates 1 year in Cheshire
10/6 Jada celebrates 5 years in Cheshire**

CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER
2026

Infants

October is bringing lots of exciting milestones and fall fun to our Infant room! We'll be helping two of our little friends transition to Waddlers as they grow and become more independent.

Our little ones are getting stronger every day and will be working on their grip and fine motor skills through fun, age-appropriate activities. We'll also be getting into the fall spirit with adorable pumpkin and ghost footprints and creating some special fall crafts to celebrate the season! 🍂🎃👻

Toddler 1

Toddler 1 is ready for a fun-filled October! We'll learn about firefighters through a paper plate fire truck craft, firefighter dramatic play, and singing our favorite fire truck song. We'll explore pumpkins with a pumpkin sensory bin, identify pumpkins during circle time, and sing along to "I'm a Little Pumpkin." Our little monsters will enjoy getting messy with Monster Goo sensory play, creating monster crafts, and reading "Tickle Monster." To finish the month, we'll celebrate Halloween with fun spider, pumpkin, and ghost crafts while reading "The Spooky Wheels on the Bus!"

Waddlers

October is full of exciting, hands-on learning and lots of fall fun in the Waddler rooms! During Fire Truck & Firefighter Week, we'll explore a Fire Truck ABCs book, paint our own fire trucks, and investigate a fun fire truck sensory bin. For Spider Week, we'll create spider web paper plates, turn ourselves into adorable bats, paint with marbles, and explore a web-themed sensory bin. During Monsters Week, we'll make monster doors, play with monster moon sand, and dance like monsters! For Pumpkin Week, we'll get creative with pumpkin painting before celebrating with our Boo Bash Party! 🎃👻 We'll finish the month with spooky fun, including a witch hat ring toss and spider tic-tac-toe!

Toddler 2

October is full of fun and exciting activities in Toddler 2! During Fire Truck & Firefighter Week, we'll make our own firefighter hats and badges while learning about the important job of firefighters. For Pumpkin Week, we'll practice letter recognition with a fun pumpkin letter-matching sensory bin. During Monsters Week, we'll build our fine motor skills with a silly "Feed the Monster" activity. We'll wrap up the month with a fun Halloween Party filled with festive activities and lots of spooky fun! 🍬🎃🚒

CHESHIRE HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER
2026



Toddler 3

October is filled with fun, hands-on learning in Toddler 3! During Fire Truck & Firefighter Week, we'll practice a "Put Out the Fire" activity and have fun with a fire-blowing activity. For Pumpkin Week, we'll explore a pumpkin volcano experiment and get creative rolling and painting with mini pumpkins. During Monsters Week, we'll make our own playdough monsters and practice fine motor skills with a "Feed the Monster" sensory bin. We'll finish the month with Halloween Week by working on fine motor skills with a witch's broomstick activity using beads and spaghetti, followed by a fun eyeball sensory bin! 🍬🎃👻

Pre-K

October is full of exciting learning and hands-on activities in Pre-K! During Fire Truck & Fire Prevention Week, we'll practice what to do in case of a fire, create a fire truck name craft, and talk about things in our homes that can be hot. For Pumpkin Week, we'll learn how pumpkins grow, explore the pumpkin life cycle with a worksheet, and create our own pumpkin charts. During Monsters Week, we'll make paper plate monsters, practice identifying things that are the same and different, and design our very own monsters! We'll wrap up the month with Halloween Week by learning about how Halloween is celebrated around the world.

Preschool

October is filled with exciting learning and seasonal fun in Preschool! During Fire Prevention Week, we'll learn about fire safety and put our skills to the test with a fun firefighter obstacle course. We'll also celebrate Mad Hatter Day with a special tea party! 🍵👑 For Pumpkin Week, we'll explore the different parts of a pumpkin, conduct a fun pumpkin experiment, and decorate a pumpkin for our classroom. During Monster Week, we'll get creative by making our very own monster slime! We'll finish the month with a spooky Halloween sensory bin and a fun Halloween Party!

Reminders

**Holiday wishes Fundraiser orders
due 10/12**
**Spooky Night from 6pm-7pm
10/28**
**Halloween Parade/parties at 3pm
10/30**

CHESHIRE SPOTLIGHTS

OCTOBER
2026



The Kalach Family

This month, we're excited to shine the spotlight on the Kalach family! The Kalach family loves spending time together, especially enjoying the outdoors and swimming in their pool. Their favorite holiday is Christmas, and when it comes to food, you can't go wrong with a family favorite, pizza!

One of their most treasured family memories is celebrating the twins' first birthdays, making it a very special milestone for their family. They also have a beloved 5-year-old dog named Bud, who is an important part of the family.

What makes the Kalach family unique? They are the only family in both sides of their families to have twins! They are proud of their Italian and Finnish heritage and enjoy celebrating what makes their family special. When it's movie night, you'll likely find them watching *Monsters, Inc.* together. Most of all, their favorite place to be is simply home together, enjoying time as a family. We're so happy to have the Kalach family as part of our OTR family!

Miss Kayla



Miss Kayla is our amazing Toddler 1 Assistant teacher.

Her loving and caring demeanor brings lots of smiles to Toddler 1. Kayla works very hard to maintain the childrens' daily routines.

She will step into any classroom to help out when needed. We appreciate all she does for the Toddler children. We are grateful to have her as part of our amazing team.

HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER
2026



Infants

October is full of fun, colorful, and sensory-filled experiences in our Infant classroom! Our youngest friends will explore fire trucks and firefighters through simple songs, books, and sensory activities while learning about the people who help keep our community safe. We'll discover spiders, bats, and Halloween through baby-friendly art, music, and movement activities. During our pumpkin week, infants will have opportunities to touch, explore, and feel the different textures of pumpkins and enjoy festive pumpkin-themed activities. We'll also have some friendly monster fun with silly songs, colorful sensory experiences, and adorable monster crafts. Throughout the month, we'll focus on exploring new textures, sounds, colors, and movements while encouraging each child's individual milestones and development. It will be a spooktacular October filled with smiles, giggles, and lots of opportunities to learn through play!

Waddler 2

Waddler 2 is ready for a colorful and spooky October! We'll explore fire safety with red, yellow, and orange handprint art and a fun firefighter craft. Our little ones will get creative with stick spiders and webs, along with a spooky bat silhouette. During Monster Week, we'll make sponge-stamped monsters and adorable Monsters, Inc. handprints! To wrap up the month, we'll create tissue paper ghosts and enjoy googly-eye sensory bags for some silly Halloween fun! 🕷️

Waddler 1

October is full of fun, hands-on activities in Waddler 1! During Fire Truck & Firefighter Week, we'll try the "Can You Help Me Put Out the Fire?" activity and explore red and yellow paint sensory bags. For Spider Week, we'll create our own Itsy Bitsy Spiders and enjoy a sensory activity with pretend spiders. During Monsters, Inc. Week, we'll make our own silly Mike Wazowski monsters and have fun exploring green pasta. We'll wrap up the month with Halloween Week by creating adorable witch handprints and exploring a variety of fun Halloween sensory items!

Toddler 1

October is full of fun, hands-on learning in Toddler 1! During Fire Prevention Week, we'll learn about fire extinguishers and create a special fire truck name craft. For Pumpkin Week, we'll explore pom-pom pumpkin sensory bags and make our own paper pumpkins. During Monster Week, we'll have fun creating silly monster puppets and bringing them to life! We'll finish the month with Halloween Week by making spooky witch hats and exploring a fun googly-eye sensory bag. 🧛‍♀️ 🧛‍♂️

HAMDEN HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER
2026

Toddler 2

October is bringing lots of fun, creativity, and spooky adventures to Toddler 2! We'll kick off the month learning about fire trucks and firefighters with fire finger painting and a fun fire truck shapes craft. 🚒 During our pumpkin week, we'll get creative with pumpkin LEGO painting and adorable pumpkin handprints. 🎃

As Halloween approaches, we'll make silly monsters out of paper plates and create colorful fork monsters! 🍌 We'll wrap up the month with ghost handprints and a fun mummy craft. 🧛 October is sure to be a month full of messy, creative, and spooktacular fun!

Toddler 3

October is filled with fun, hands-on learning in Toddler 3! During Fire Truck & Firefighter Week, we'll create a colorful tissue paper fire craft while learning about firefighters and fire safety. For Pumpkin Week, we'll explore what's inside a pumpkin and enjoy a "Clean the Pumpkin" sensory activity. During Monsters Week, we'll get creative with blow-painted monsters and practice our fine motor skills with a fun "Feed the Monster" activity. We'll finish the month with Halloween Week, making spooky vampire handprints and adorable ghost crafts!

Toddler 4 & Preschool

October is packed with spooky, silly, and exciting learning in Toddler 4!

During Fire Prevention Week, we'll practice sorting safe and unsafe items and create adorable handprint fire trucks. For Pumpkin Week, we'll explore pumpkins with a fun sensory bin and make pumpkin-stamped art. During Monster Week, we'll build our own monsters, explore monster footprints, and dance the day away with a Monster Mash Dance Party! 🎵 We'll finish the month with Halloween Week, enjoying a spider web toss and going on a fun Halloween nature hunt! October is filled with colorful, hands-on fun in Preschool! We'll learn about fire safety while creating tissue paper flames and exploring flame colors with sensory bags. 🔥 During pumpkin week, we'll make Q-tip dot pumpkins and investigate the inside of a real pumpkin! 🎃

Our little artists will get creative with monster blob paintings and monster play dough as we explore all things spooky. 🧛 We'll finish the month with paper plate jack-o'-lanterns and a spiderweb sensory activity. October is sure to be full of fun, creativity, and lots of festive learning!

Pre-K

October is full of spooky fun and hands-on learning in Pre-K! We'll kick off the month by learning about fire safety as we practice "putting out a fire" using shaving cream and create colorful handprint fire paintings. During our pumpkin exploration, we'll learn about the different parts of a pumpkin and get to dissect a real pumpkin to see what's inside! 🎃

For some spooky science, we'll make bleeding coffee filter monsters and explore monster slime sensory bags. We'll finish the month with ghost suncatchers and a creepy-crawly "eyeball soup" sensory bin. It's going to be a spooktacular month of learning, exploring, and creating!

HAMDEN SPOTLIGHTS

OCTOBER
2026

The Bellido Family

This month, we are excited to spotlight the Bellido family! The Bellidos are a fun-loving, adventurous family who enjoy traveling and exploring new places together. Their favorite holidays are Christmas and New Year's, and they love sharing a delicious Argentinian-style barbecue, or asado, as a family. One of their most special memories was traveling to Argentina in April to introduce Zoe to their family and friends. With a Hispanic/Latino background, a love for adventure, and a favorite family movie of Harry Potter, the Bellido family enjoys making wonderful memories together. Their favorite place to visit is beautiful Bariloche, Argentina. We are so happy to have this adventurous family as part of our OTR family!

Miss Rebecca



This month, we're shining the spotlight on Miss Rebecca, one of our fantastic floaters! Rebecca primarily works with our Infant and Waddler classrooms, where she is always ready to lend a helping hand.

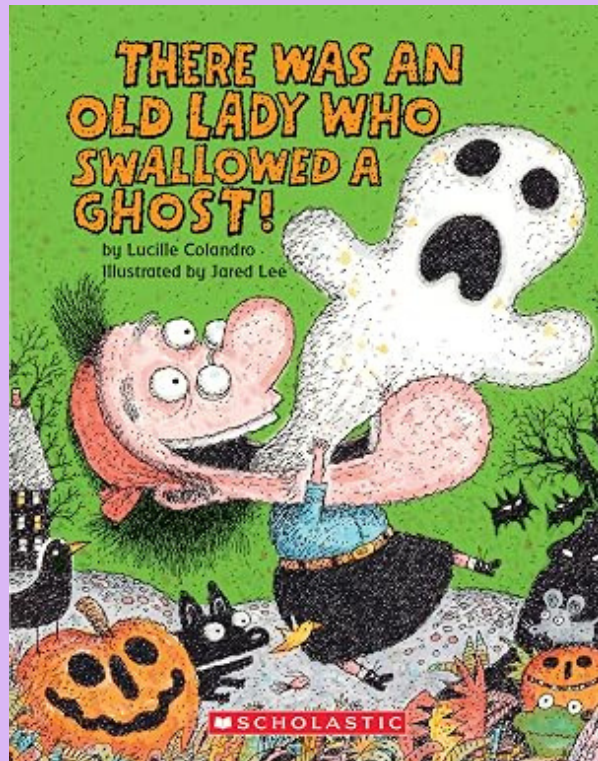
Whether she's comforting a little one, keeping our babies entertained, or jumping in wherever she's needed, Rebecca brings so much warmth and care to our classrooms. She is compassionate, kind, and empathetic, and her gentle nature makes her someone our littlest learners feel safe and comfortable with.

It's easy to see why the babies love Miss Rebecca! 🥰 She is such a wonderful part of our Over the Rainbow family, and we are so lucky to have her on our team! Thank you, Miss Rebecca, for all the love and care you give our little ones each day!

LITERACY RAINBOW

OCTOBER
2026

👻 There Was an Old Lady Who
Swallowed a Ghost! 👻



Get ready for a silly Halloween adventure! 👻🎃 In *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Ghost!*, children follow the Old Lady as she swallows a spooky assortment of Halloween surprises. With its fun, repetitive storyline, this book keeps little ones engaged while encouraging listening skills, memory, sequencing, prediction, and vocabulary development.

Ask your little one:

"What would you put inside the Old Lady if you could add one more spooky surprise?"

NOURISHING MOMENTS

OCTOBER
2026



Easy Family Chili

Serves: 6–8

Prep: 15 minutes

Cook: 30–40 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 lb ground beef (80/20 or lean)
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (28 oz) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 (15 oz) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup beef broth or water
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1–2 tbsp brown sugar (optional—helps balance the tomatoes)
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, for topping

Optional toppings:

Sour cream • green onions • avocado • tortilla chips • jalapeños • extra cheese

Instructions

1. **Brown the beef:**
2. Heat a large pot or Dutch oven over medium–high heat. Add the ground beef and cook until browned, breaking it apart as it cooks. Drain excess grease if needed.
3. **Add the veggies:**
4. Add the diced onion and bell pepper. Cook for 4–5 minutes, until they begin to soften. Add the garlic and cook for another 30 seconds.
5. **Add everything else:**
6. Stir in the diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, kidney beans, black beans, and beef broth.
7. **Season it:**
8. Add chili powder, cumin, paprika, salt, pepper, garlic powder, and brown sugar if using. Stir well.
9. **Simmer:**
10. Bring the chili to a gentle boil, then reduce the heat to low. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. For even more flavor, let it simmer for 45–60 minutes.
11. **Taste & adjust:**
12. Taste before serving. Add more chili powder for heat, salt if needed, or a little brown sugar if it's too acidic.
13. **Make your bowls!** 🍲
14. Ladle into bowls and let everyone add their favorite toppings.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

OCTOBER
2026



October Family Activity: Pumpkin Decorating Night



What you'll need:

- Small pumpkins or gourds
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Stickers
- Googly eyes
- Markers
- Glue
- Ribbon, pom-poms, or other craft supplies

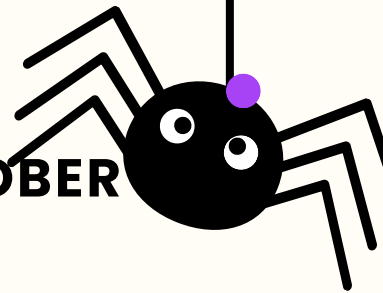
How to make it fun:

1. Let each family member choose their own pumpkin.
2. Put on some Halloween or fall music. 🎵
3. Decorate pumpkins without worrying about making them perfect!
4. Have a "silliest pumpkin," "most creative pumpkin," and "best family pumpkin" contest.
5. Display everyone's pumpkins outside or around the house.
6. Finish the evening with hot chocolate, apple cider, or a fall dessert. 🍎🍵

Bonus idea: Take a family picture with all of your decorated pumpkins and make it an annual October tradition! 🍂🎃

OTR BLOG

OCTOBER
2026



The Surprising Learning Power of October Play

October is the perfect time to blend festive fun with early learning. While the Halloween season is often filled with costumes and candy, it also offers rich opportunities to support your child's development if you know where to look.

Pumpkin patches, crafts, and themed sensory play aren't just entertaining. They help young children build motor skills, develop language, explore cause and effect, and strengthen their social-emotional awareness. With a little intention, Halloween activities can become meaningful learning experiences that support your child's growth.

Pumpkin Patch Learning: What to Do Beyond Photos

A trip to the pumpkin patch might seem like a simple seasonal outing, but it's also a goldmine for hands-on learning. As you walk through the rows, encourage your child to touch, lift, and explore the pumpkins. Ask questions: "Which one is the biggest?" "Can you find a bumpy one?" "How does this one feel, smooth or rough?"

These conversations build observation skills, encourage descriptive language, and strengthen your child's growing vocabulary. They also support critical thinking. When you ask your child to choose the "best" pumpkin, you're inviting them to compare, evaluate, and make independent decisions.

Physically, pumpkin picking is a full-body experience. Lifting, rolling, pushing, and carrying pumpkins builds gross motor strength and coordination. Letting your child pull a wagon or help carry a small pumpkin offers a real-world opportunity to practice balance, muscle control, and teamwork.

And don't forget the social-emotional benefits. Giving your child the responsibility to choose "their" pumpkin can be a big confidence booster and a chance for you to say, "I trust your choice!"

Pumpkin-Sized Tip: Let your child explore pumpkins of all sizes, not just the prettiest or roundest. Look for ones with unusual shapes, colors, or textures. That's where the curiosity and conversation really begin.

Sensory Play Ideas: Slime, Seeds & Spooky Textures

Sensory play is more than just messy fun; it's a foundational part of early childhood development. Exploring textures, temperatures, and materials helps children build neural connections in the brain, regulate their emotions, and engage with the world using all five senses. Halloween-themed sensory play adds a layer of excitement and engagement.

Try these easy and developmentally rich ideas:

- **Pumpkin seed scooping:** Cut open a pumpkin and let your child explore the inside. Talk about how it feels: slimy, stringy, cold. Then wash and dry the seeds to use in counting or sorting games.
 - **Spooky spaghetti:** Cook pasta and add a few drops of food coloring. Let your child squish, squeeze, and scoop with small tongs or spoons.
 - **Dry sensory bins:** Fill with black beans, dyed rice, or dry pasta, and add miniature pumpkins, plastic spiders, toy bats, or Halloween erasers. Include small tongs, cups, and spoons for scooping and sorting.
- These activities promote calm, focus, and coordination. They also help children learn to describe their experiences—"It's squishy!" "It smells funny!"—which supports both cognitive and language development.

Costumes That Encourage Role-Playing & Imagination

Dressing up is more than just a Halloween tradition—it's a window into how children make sense of the world.

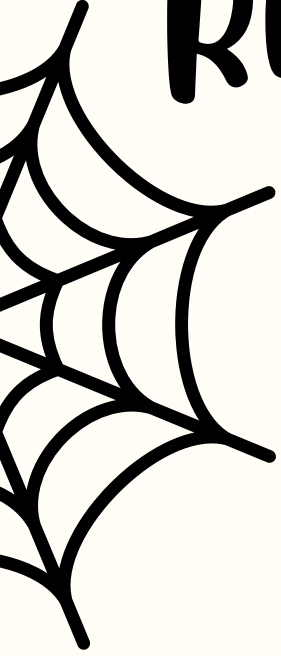
When a child puts on a costume and pretends to be someone else, they're developing storytelling skills, practicing social roles, and building confidence.

Pretend play also encourages problem-solving. A child pretending to be a firefighter might decide how to put out an imaginary fire. A superhero might save their stuffed animals. A fairy might decide who needs a little extra sparkle that day.

These creative moments help children build empathy and understand emotions. They also strengthen executive function skills like planning, sequencing, and decision-making.

If your child doesn't like heavy or uncomfortable costumes, keep it simple. A favorite t-shirt and a toy stethoscope make a great "doctor." A cape and a crown turn everyday clothes into royal attire. The key is letting your child lead the play and step into a role that feels fun, not forced.

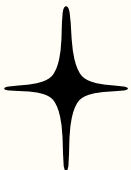
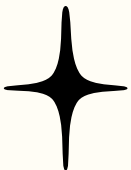
Boo-nus Tip: Ask questions that keep the pretend world going, like "Where are we flying today, pilot?" or "What's your next mission, superhero?" These prompts help extend play and keep imaginations growing.



OTR REFERRAL



OCTOBER
2026



At Over the Rainbow Learning Center we love and appreciate each and every one of our families. We are honored you choose to recommend our Center to your family and friends day after day. As a way to say “thank you” we are offering a referral program to reward our existing students and families. For every full-time new family referral, who registers in our Learning Center and is enrolled for 90 days, you will receive a free week’s tuition applied to your account. Referred families must tell us that they were referred and by whom during their tour.