

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. With the fall season upon us, crispy air and leaves turning beautiful colors of orange, red and yellow, let's have some fun adding pumpkins to the mix. Pumpkin is a favorite autumn fruit for eating and decorating. It is considered a fruit because it starts from a flower. Pumpkin pie, pumpkin seeds, or just a pretty pumpkin to place on the porch to welcome family, friends, and little goblins – what will your pumpkin look like?



1-Open up the bottom of a brown paper bag. Leave one long side folded and cut open the opposite long side of the bag. Turn the bag inside-out. Draw a large circle on one side of the bag. You can even draw a stem on the top of the pumpkin. There are many varieties of pumpkins, so you can color your pumpkin orange, green, or even black. Peeling the paper off of the crayon and rolling it on the paper is a good way to fill in the whole pumpkin. This may take a bit of time, so you can do it in sections. Cut out around the pumpkin and keep the scraps for stuffing. *Do not* cut out the bottom of the pumpkin.

2- Punch holes all around the pumpkin about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch inside the edge. If you do not have a hole punch, fold the edge over about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and make a snip with the end of the scissors. Do this all around the sides and top of the pumpkin. Now take a piece of yarn or string and weave around the outside edge, going in and out of each hole. Start on one side at the bottom, and go up and around to the other bottom side. Fill the inside of the pumpkin with the bag cuttings and newspaper or other recycled paper before you have sealed the whole pumpkin with the string. Add a bow at the top on the stem or a vine of green leaves falling down the side of the pumpkin. Add eyes, nose and mouth of the pumpkin and decorate as you like. Make couple and set them out on the porch for a festive fall decoration that not go bad!

decorating, my little pumpkins!

Ms. Susan

