



## SpeakEasy Sandbox #49: Trick or Treat

### Preverbal

**Activity:** Make a Halloween "Knock Knock Box." Decorate an old shoe box together. Hide a toy or a seasonal item (e.g. pumpkin, toy spider) inside. Chant, **"Knock. Knock. Box! Knock. Knock. Box!"** as you each knock on the top.

Excitedly open the box to reveal the "prize" inside. Look at the toy together to practice joint attention, and name the item for your child (**"Wow, a pumpkin!"**).

### First words

**Activity:** Focus on a very seasonal and appropriate early word: **"Boo!"**. Hide under a blanket and talk to your child using an exaggerated, sing-songy voice. **"Hellooooo. Where did you go? Is anyone there?"**

Pop out with a smile and excitedly say: **"Boo!"** Get face to face so your child can really see how you move your lips to make the word. Then offer them the blanket to take a turn.

### Word combiner

**Activity:** Paint a pumpkin. If you'd like, start by completing the "Knock Knock Box" activity above with a small pumpkin inside. Then, set up your pumpkin and some washable paints, and take turns adding paint to your pumpkin. **"I'm painting BLUE on our pumpkin. Blop!"** Offer your child a brush and a choice of two colors to take their turn. You can emphasize colors, size/shape, the verb "painting," or repeat "pumpkin" in all of your phrases.

### Full sentences

**Activity:** Get dressed up and play trick-or-treat.

**"We knock on the door, then we WAIT. When someone opens the door we say 'trick or treat'. If they give us candy or a toy we say... 'thank you.'"**

Run through your "trick or treat" scene, cueing your child as needed (e.g. **"Someone opened the door, so we say...tr..."**). Repeat as many times as you'd like, then switch roles!



### Ask the OT:

Have a child who is sensitive to tags or other elements of clothing? Costumes can be tricky! Practice by allowing your child to wear pieces of their costume around the house on different days, to get used to the feeling slowly.

*The SpeakEasy Sandbox is a newsletter that provides the necessary tools to boost your child's speech and language development at home. **PLUS, find TONS more activities on our new app! Sign up at [speakeasycommunity.com](https://speakeasycommunity.com).***