

Crayon-Dripped Pumpkins

In the season of gourds, with pumpkins a-plenty, give your fall display a twist. Use crayon bits, melted with a hair dryer, to craft a unique pumpkin that will last a whole lot longer than a jack-o-lantern.

Materials:

Pumpkins or gourds

Good quality crayons (ex: Crayola, not generic)

Hair dryer

Optional: kitchen tongs or large tweezers

Embellishments: googly eyes, glitter, paint, stickers...have fun!



Directions:

This kid-friendly pumpkin activity is full of **surprises**. While grown-ups know the seriousness of a crayon entering the clothes dryer, young eyes will widen when they see the crayon wax start dripping down the side of the pumpkin. How, you may ask?

Easy! Start by unwrapping the crayon. Longer crayons can be held by hand, while smaller or broken pieces can be held by kitchen tongs. Hold the crayon close to the pumpkin where you want the wax to land, and then aim the hairdryer at end of the crayon. Focus the **heat** on the tip, and tilt the crayon. In moments it will start to drip like a candle.

Switch and layer colors to create intricate designs, or let your little ones be the muse. (Or be amused!) The white pumpkin creates dramatic results, but both white and orange pumpkins can communicate even more than fall festivities.

Perhaps you've seen the blue and teal pumpkins? **Blue** pumpkins represent autism awareness (children who might not communicate or make eye contact when trick-or-treating) and **teal** pumpkins denote food allergies/sensitivities (think about non-food treats), and finally the **purple** pumpkin is to bring awareness and financial support to those with epilepsy. Your candle-dripped pumpkins can still be carved when the big day approaches. Enjoy!

Extension:

- ✓ Glue a pair googly-eyes and draw a smile with a permanent marker on a sugar pumpkin to make a **fall friend**.
- ✓ Observe the speed at which the wax melts. Darker pigments melt faster than lighter pigments, so have a **crayon-melting-race** and see for yourselves.
- ✓ See what happens when you melt **generic** crayons, **versus high quality** crayons. The result is even more dramatic than the color race!
- ✓ Share your pumpkins on social media at **#littlechildrenBIGactivity**.

See the "I've been thinking..." section at www.joanruddimanedd.com for continuously updated content.