

Parent Conversations and Activities

MONSTER TALES

1. Have your child make a mask out of newspaper. Then have him/her decorate the mask with things like markers, crayons, buttons, feathers, or glitter. Invite your child to parade around the house with his/her mask. "Let the wild rumpus begin."
2. Talk to your child about his/her bedtime fears. Give your child different ways to deal with his/her fears (i.e., a nightlight, a flashlight, a special stuffed toy).
3. After reading one of the books from the unit to your child, talk about a time he/she was afraid.
4. Ask your child what he/she likes most about bedtime and what he/she does not like about bedtime.
5. After reading several books from the unit to your child, ask your child which book he/she thought was scary. Why was it scary?
6. Ask your child to draw a scary picture. Then ask him/her to tell you what the scariest part of the story is.
7. Ask your child about his/her fears. What kinds of things are frightening to him/her? Explain that everyone is afraid sometimes.
8. After reading a book from the unit, ask your child what suggestions they would have for the main character in the story.
9. Together with your child draw a monster. You can start by drawing a funny shaped body. Have your child add a head. Take turns with the face and limbs. By making the monster you can help your child conquer his/her fears.
10. Make an apple or potato monster. You supply an apple or a potato. Then with toothpicks or small twigs use odds and ends such as buttons, string, scraps of material, etc. Have your child make a head, face and limbs. When finished remove all the inedible pieces and enjoy the apple or potato with your child.
11. Talk to your child about a time when you were scared. Then ask your child about a time that they were scared.
12. Talk with your child about a time when you were brave and then ask them to tell you about a time they were brave.

13. Ask your child to draw what he/she thinks a goblin, ghost or witch might look like.
Then have them tell you a story about this character.
14. Turn on some music, and do the Monster Mash. Make up the steps as you go along.
15. After reading several books in the Monster Tales unit, choose two books to compare.
Ask your child to retell each story. Then ask him/her which story they liked best and why.