

Pumpkin Carving Ideas for Kids



Carving a pumpkin is to Halloween as stuffing a stocking is to Christmas: you simply can't fully embrace the spooky spirit of the holiday without a glowing jack-o'-lantern on your doorstep. It's also a great way to bring the family together for an activity that appeals to all ages, and allowing your child to decorate a pumpkin encourages individuality and creativity. Once you've selected the perfect pumpkin, we've rounded up a few pumpkin carvings that are just right for kids.

Use Glow-in-the-Dark Teeth



We love this incredibly easy pumpkin, made even better with a set of glow-in-the-dark fangs. You'll want to pick a smaller pumpkin to accommodate the teeth, but this is a great idea for a beginner carver. Simply carve a rectangle to hold the teeth, add a few push pins for eyes and you have a very mouthy jack-o'-lantern.

[Polka Dot Pumpkins](#)



This fun pumpkin carving uses an electric drill or a simple kitchen corer. Give your kid a marker and let him or her create a fun polka dot design on the pumpkin. Complete the look by drilling or coring out the design, and voila!

[Me Want Cookie](#)



Every school-aged kid will love this adorable Cookie Monster pumpkin. A much more kid-friendly take on the wildly popular vomiting pumpkin, this Cookie Monster is super easy to make and a lot of fun. To recreate it, simply grab a pair of ping pong balls for the eyes, some blue paint and cut out a mouth. Add a few delicious cookies and your kids will be thrilled.

[Bert and Ernie Pumpkins](#)



"Sesame Street" pumpkins ! They're pretty simple to recreate (gather up a printed template, some yellow paint, and a few veggie noses) and your kids will adore them. Just add a rubber ducky to complete the look.

[A Nosy Pumpkin](#)



This hilarious carving flips a pumpkin over to give it a little more dimension. Make your next trip to the pumpkin patch a scavenger hunt for the "nosiest" pumpkin stem, and recreate this easy, long-nosed jack-o'-lantern.



[A Delicious Idea](#)

For a kid-friendly pumpkin that's surprisingly multi-purposed, try this lollipop head. Once you and your family have created a fun jack-o'-lantern, poke small holes to accommodate the lollipop hair and you'll have a pumpkin *everyone* will love.

[An Apple a Day ...](#)



This is super easy to recreate by carving most of the pumpkin out to make a core. Bonus: You'll have a lot of pumpkin leftover for delicious recipes.

Embrace the Metal Mouth



If your child recently got braces, this pumpkin is an adorable idea that will make those scary dentist visits a little more fun. Carve the pumpkin's eyes like normal, but instead of completely carving a mouth, shave into the pumpkin to create teeth instead. Grab a few small metal brackets and wire from the hardware store, and you'll have a super cute, super unique, orthodontist-friendly pumpkin.

[Be a Little Silly](#)



[Ladyface Blog](#)

This pumpkin carving is a little more difficult, but every kid (and every kid at heart) will love it. Use a second pumpkin to create this fun guy's shaggy hair, and tongue and layer them together.

[Try a Pirate Ship](#)



If your kids love model airplanes and boats, they'll love this pumpkin carving idea. Once you've cut out the pieces, your children can construct the sails and details. For a carving this exposed, you'll want to be sure to preserve your pumpkin so it doesn't rot before Halloween.

[An Tribute to Your Kid's Favorite Book](#)



A healthy love of reading is a great thing to foster in a child. This "Harry Potter" pumpkin is a great jumping off point, but any book your child loves will do. An online template will make this slightly more advanced carving a little easier.

[A Whale of a Good Time](#)



[Simply Emily](#)

Sketch and carve a simple whale tail on a pumpkin for this fun, kid-friendly carving. If you want to honor your child's favorite animal, focusing on a defining feature (say, a dog's paw) can make this carving a lot easier.

[An Adorable Fish Pumpkin](#)



This is another fun pumpkin idea that turns the traditional jack-o'-lantern on its side. Whether you already have a tank of fish at home or you're just looking for a fun, whimsical pumpkin idea this goldfish idea is a great choice for kids of all ages.

[Let It Go](#)



If you have every single song from "Frozen" memorized, your child may love this pumpkin carving idea. An online template will be your best bet to recreating this for your child, but we guarantee it will be a hit.

[A Cat Pumpkin](#)



If you're more of a cat family than a dog family, this is the pumpkin for you. Help your child celebrate your feline friend with an easy-to-do pumpkin you can carve together in an afternoon.

[More of a Dog Person?](#)



But if you believe a dog is a kid's best friend, honor that special bond with a pup-themed pumpkin. We love the idea of adding a few toothpicks to easily create whiskers.