

## Resource 3: Pumpkin Soup

(Adapted from Helen Cooper's Story)

Pumpkin Soup	Sensory Activity
Deep in the woods there is an old white cabin with pumpkins in the garden. There's a nice smell of soup and at night you might see a bagpiping cat, a squirrel with a banjo and a small singing duck through the window.	<i>Introduce each of the animals, encouraging each learner to feel and explore them whilst you reinforce their names. Encourage/Support the learners to action the instruments and singing duck on the switch device.</i>
Pumpkin soup is the best you have ever tasted. Made by the cat who slices up the pumpkin	<i>Give the learners some pumpkin slices to feel or to taste if appropriate.</i>
Made by the squirrel who stirs in the water	<i>Let the learners take turns to stir the water.</i>
Made by the duck who scoops up a pinch of salt and tips in just enough	<i>Let the learners touch the salt.</i>
They slurp their soup and play their song and head off to bed. And it's peaceful in the old white cabin, everyone has their own job. Everyone is happy...or so it seems.	<i>Encourage the learners to pretend to sleep, either by putting their hands together up to their cheeks or by closing their eyes.</i>
One morning the duck woke up early and decided that he would be head cook. He tiptoed into the kitchen and got the wooden spoon and took it down to the bedroom and told his friends that today he will stir the soup.	<i>Let the learners explore the wooden spoon.</i>
'That's my job' said the squirrel. Then there was trouble: a horrible squabble, a row, a racket, a rumpus in the old white cabin.	<i>Encourage the learners to pull and tug the wooden spoon.</i>
'I'm not staying here' said the duck and he put on his hat and waddled away. 'You'll be back' stormed the cat, but he didn't come back.	<i>Pass a hat around for the learners to feel or to put on their head.</i>
The cat and squirrel waited all afternoon. The cat watched the door and the squirrel paced the floor but the duck didn't come back, not even at soup time. They went out to look for him but couldn't find the duck anywhere. But when they were almost home they saw a light shining from the old white cabin.	<i>Walk around the room pretending to search for something. Get another member of staff to shine a torch from a distance.</i>
'It's duck' they shrieked. Duck was so pleased to see them.	<i>Give each learner a big hug.</i>
Duck was also very hungry, so they thought they would make some pumpkin soup. When duck stirred, the cat and squirrel didn't say a word, not even when he stirred so fast that it slopped right out of the pot. Not even when it got burnt. And the soup was still the best you ever tasted.	<i>Encourage the learners to stir really fast.</i>
Once again, it was peaceful in the old white cabin.	<i>Play some calming/happy music and encourage everyone to relax.</i>