

Large Group Activity: October Building the Scarecrow

October is a great month for decorating! One of the first things to do is construct a scarecrow. Make a simple frame using two 2x4s. The trunk of the body is about 5 ½ feet long and the cross, “shoulder” 2x4 is about 2 feet. Nail the cross beam to the body approximately 10 inches down from the top. Support the frame securing it in a Christmas tree holder.

Purchase clothes at the thrift store. A pair of bibs, a flannel long sleeved shirt, some work gloves, and a straw hat all together will cost less than \$10.00. (I also got the tree holder there for .50)

Constructing the scarecrow is a fun group project. Gather your participants in a fairly large area so that everyone can watch the action and/or participate in the stuffing. Make tables available for the scrunching of newspapers and then make stacks of newspapers available for those who wish to help.

Hang the clothes on the frame, tucking the shirt into the pants. Then simply begin stuffing the clothing with newspaper. Be sure to fill out the legs and sleeves as well as the chest and butt. The work gloves should also have a little stuffing before pinning them to the shirt. For added fun we place a bouquet of grain in the shirt pocket and place a bandana in the pants pocket so it hangs out.

The head is a pumpkin, different varieties work. There are the hard foam type that can easily have a hole cut into the bottom to accommodate the 2x4 neck. There is also the light up pumpkin that already has a hole in the bottom. You might need to enlarge it. Then just slide the pumpkin over the end of the 2x4 and you have a scarecrow!

To cover the tree stand we simply wrapped a piece of burlap around the base.

This scarecrow is capable of placing his arm over the shoulders of friends and is a wonderful photo opportunity throughout the month, for residents and their guests!

Throughout the month, we moved the scarecrow, from the coffee shop to the front entry to the library. He joined everyone for the Halloween party. He is easily moved by using a long rope attached to the stand screws. Pulling from a distance away is better than pulling from a short distance as this will cause the structure to tip.

