

F E A T U R E

# Thinking about kids and **Hallowe'en**

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With the turning leaves and the crisp chill of fall in the air, every child knows that Hallowe'en is just around the corner. Ask a child what they like best about the holiday and you'll probably hear "all the candy!". But for many children, especially under 5's, dressing up in a costume and seeing ghosts and goblins marching up and down the street can be too scary.

Now is the time to start to talk with your child and prepare him for the trick or treating. Explain that some kids enjoy the make believe of dressing up and trick or treat, but that it is ok to feel worried or scared about this custom. Talk with your child about the pretend side of dressing up, that this is really just a costume, and that it won't magically make him into the person or thing he will dress as. It is hard for young children to make a distinction between fantasy and reality, so it is a parent's job to assess if the child can really understand that dressing up is make-believe. Can the child use a parent's helping words to manage this experience, or will it be too

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## Colouring Contest

**ENTRY FORM**

Name: ..... Phone: .....

Address: ..... Age: .....

Colour this picture, bring it in to our office and you'll be entered into a draw for 1 of 3 "real cool" gift packages. Also, when you bring in your coloured picture, you will receive a Halloween bag of goodies and stickers (limit of one per child). Contest is open to children 12 years old and under in the Halton Hills area. It is **not restricted** to the children of Co-operators clients.

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