

## Tips for Preparing Children with Autism for Halloween

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- **Practice Trick or Treating**
  - Trial run wearing the costume
  - Practice saying trick or treat or using a communication card
  - Work on taking just 1 piece of candy and saying Thank you or using a communication card.
  - Talk about how to know if a house is participating
    - Lights off vs. Light On
    - Look for people present
  - Pre-walk the route or neighborhood you will be trick-or-treating in
- **Work on Safety Skills**
  - Stay with an adult when walking
  - Look both ways before crossing the street
  - Stick to the sidewalk or edge of the road, not the middle of the street
- **Reminders for Community Members:**
  - Think about ways you can provide a more inclusive experience
    - Non-food treats such as pencils, stickers, or small toys
    - Limit scary or flashing decorations
  - Some kids may not have the verbal skills to say "Trick-or-Treat" or "Thank You" or feel comfortable wearing a costume – and that's okay!
  - Teal Pumpkin Project is a great resource for additional tips on making this a Happy Halloween for everyone!