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Topic of the Week



# It's everyone's Halloween.

Friday, October 31, 2014





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## Tips for a Successful Halloween for Everyone!

Bring little cards to hand out that explain, educate and raise awareness about your loved one's disease. Here is a [Pinterest link](#) with an example of what you could do on your home computer!

**Share a sweet** by giving your loved one a little taste on their tongue.

For readers who are handing out candy, please remember some trick-or-treaters need a little more time, may be non-verbal, and may startle easily. But it's important that they be included too!

Consider trading in candy that cannot be eaten to a local program that may accept candy for cash - or perhaps make a trade with a candy lover in exchange for a gift made in honor of your loved one to NTSAD for the [Helping Hand Grant Fund!](#)

Bundle up, have fun and be sure to share your pictures on the [NTSAD Family Support Group page on Facebook here!](#)



Dylan in action with his handsome smile!

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## An Important Reminder as Winter Approaches...

### **Flu Season is Here!**

It is time for families to take steps to make sure everybody in the household is as protected as possible. Flu is serious business.

Each year many children get the flu, and some of those children die from it. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year an average of 20,000 children under the age of 5 are hospitalized because of complications from the flu. Children and youth with special health care needs or disabilities are particularly vulnerable.



The CDC recently conducted a survey of families about their knowledge and experience with the flu. Family Voices worked with the CDC to develop the

survey and to help distribute the survey through the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers and Family Voices State Affiliate Organizations.

Key findings relevant to Children and Youth Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) include:

- Only half of children with neurologic and neurodevelopmental conditions are vaccinated against the flu each year.
- Families view their child's doctor as the main source of information about the flu.
- Many pediatricians do not recognize intellectual disability as a high-risk condition for the flu.
- Last year, according to the CDC, 64% of children with underlying health conditions who died from the flu had a neurologic disorder or neurodevelopmental condition.

## Supporting NTSAD Makes a Difference!

We welcome gifts to support our many efforts to fund research, care for families and their loved ones. Gifts can be made through our website [here](#). *Thank you* for supporting NTSAD and giving hope to all our families!



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