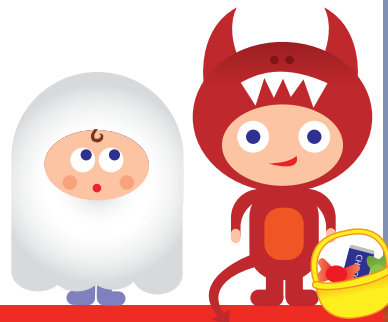


A Practical Guide



My Mini  
**Monsters**



Halloween  
Carve a spooky  
pumpkin





## Carving Your Jack-o'Lantern

Here are our top tips to get you started and let your mini monsters unleash some spooky creativity:

### *Decisions decisions...*

Let your little one help pick a ripe pumpkin from your local grocers or supermarket - a pumpkin with fewer cuts and bruises will last much longer so choose wisely!

### *The bigger the better...*

Carving is much easier with a bigger pumpkin so flex those muscles and grab a big'un!

### *Pinnies on...*

Carving can be a messy business so cover surfaces with newspaper in preparation and throw on an apron to protect little clothes!

### *Safety first...*

Always have an adult present when carving your pumpkin - sharp knives and little fingers don't match so please be careful when you're carving!

### *Starting positions...*

Cut off the top of the pumpkin but keep it to one side for later. If the pumpkin is unsteady you can slice the bottom as well for a flatter base.

### *Start scooping...*

Use a large spoon or ladle to scoop the insides out, removing all the goo and seeds until the pumpkin is clean (Mums - you can always make a delicious warming pumpkin soup).

### *Pull a face...*

Design a face for the pumpkin on paper, tape it to the outside of the pumpkin and score onto the surface using a large nail or pin. (See our face ideas on the next page)

### *Mum's turn...*

Carefully cut out the design following the holes with the knife and push the pieces out.

### *Let there be light...*

Add tea lights or candles to the inside of the pumpkin in preparation for night-time.

### *Get spooky...*

When the sun sets get an adult to light the candles and put the lid back on, creating a spooky and fun-filled Halloween for the family!

## The Legend of the Jack-o'Lantern

As the nights are drawing in, our mini monsters start to get excited about Halloween. There are lots of exciting things you can do with your little ones to make this All Hallows Eve one to remember for all the family, from Apple Bobbing to Trick-or-Treating.

One of the most common and fun things to do is carve a "Jack-o'Lantern" out of a pumpkin. A carved pumpkin lit with a candle inside is now a prominent feature on many window sills across the country on October 31st.

But why has a pumpkin become the image of Halloween and why do we often refer to the pumpkin lantern as a Jack-o'Lantern?

*The past-time goes back to the Irish legend of Stingy Jack, a miserable old man who liked to play tricks on everyone. One of Jack's favourite foods was turnip and he carried one with him everywhere he went. After he died, Jack roamed the earth in the dark without a resting place. To light his way, he carried his turnip with a flame inside - a Jack-o'Lantern.*

*So, on All Hallows Eve, the Irish hollowed out turnips, potatoes and beets and placed lights in them to ward off evil spirits and keep Stingy Jack away.*

*The tradition was taken by the Irish to America, where they discovered that pumpkins were much larger and easier to carve.*

So now is the time to get thinking about buying your mini monsters a pumpkin before the shops run out!





Check out these funky faces to create a spooky Jack-o'Lantern, or design your own for a truly unique pumpkin!

