

Costumes for kids with special needs

By Chicago Parent Staff - 9/22/2008

A new line of dress-up costumes for kids with special needs is hitting the streets this month, just in time for Halloween. Magical Apparel by Fun and Function features rescue hero and princess costumes that have enhanced features for kids with sensory processing disorders and autism.

The costumes are the brainchild of Aviva Weiss, president of Fun and Function who is also an occupational therapist and parent of a child with sensory processing disorder. Weiss found that products for special needs children were often expensive and unattractive. The Magical Apparel line, which retails for \$19.99-\$39.99, includes sparkly princess dresses and firemen vests with shiny reflective strips.

The costumes are designed to be inclusive—optional weights can be inserted into inner pockets—so they should appeal to children with and without special needs. Each costume also includes all the components to teach children dressing skills, including buttons, zippers, Velcro and ties. The costumes feature adjustable straps and should fit children between the ages of 3-8.

Magical Apparel costumes are available at funandfunction.com or by calling (800) 231-6329.