CUSTOM OF WEARING A NEW DEEL

The general clothing of the Mongols is a traditional costume called a deel (gown). Mongols sew deels for their children mostly with sharp coloured fabrics, beautiful edging, and adornments. The following verse is told during the first wearing of a child’s new deel:

Your front skirt is maybe accompanied by foals and colts
Your back skirt is maybe accompanied by sheep and lambs
Your inner skirt is anointed by fat and oil
Your outer skirt is decorated with thongs;
This year your clothing is cotton
Next year your clothing shall be silk;
May your clothing never be dirty
May your clothing never become frayed
But may you yourself be eternal!

Afterwards, the quilting of the deel is removed. The child is kissed and the new deel is blessed. A child wearing the new deel gets excited. It makes the parents happy. The child can show off the deel to the children of his or her neighbours, and their parents reward the child with sweets. The adult neighbours traditionally encourage children with sweets on the occasion of his or her new deel.