



# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

## ALL DRESSED UP

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he stumbles or trips.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost.



## CARVING A NICHE

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers, then parents can do the cutting.
- Consider using a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. If you do use a candle, a votive candle is safest.
- Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.



## HOME SAFE HOME

- To keep homes safe for visiting Trick-or-Treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.
- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks/steps.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a Trick-or-Treater.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young kids on neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time to return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or-Treaters:
  - Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
  - Carry a cell phone for quick communication.
  - Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
  - If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
  - Never cut across yards or use alleys.
  - Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.
  - Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
  - Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.



## HEALTHY HALLOWEEN

- A good meal prior to parties and Trick-or-Treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.

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