

It's no trick, just treats

Your guide to a safer Halloween



Dressing up

- Choose a costume made of light or bright colors. Add reflective tape or stickers to costumes and bags to help children be seen.
- Make sure costumes are the right size to prevent trips and falls.
- Consider using face paint or makeup in place of masks, which can limit or block a child's vision.
- Use glow sticks or flashlights to help children see and be seen by drivers.

Recommendations for a safe home by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Keep sidewalks, stairs and porches clear of anything that could cause trick or treaters to trip, such as garden hoses, toys and bikes.
- Restrain pets so they do not jump on or bite a trick-or-treater. Teach your child to never pet a dog without asking permission first.
- Sweep wet leaves from sidewalks and steps to prevent anyone from slipping.

While out trick or treating

- Put cell phones and electronic devices down, keep your head up and pay attention to your surroundings.
- Teach your children to never enter a home or approach a car.
- Go with children under 12 to trick or treat. If a child is mature enough to go without supervision, guide them to stay in familiar areas that are well lit, to go in a group and to return home at the time you choose.
- Always look left, right and left again before crossing the street.
- Cross at street corners, making eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Watch for cars that are backing up or turning. Teach children to never run into or cross the street between parked cars.

Be more alert while driving

- Be extra cautious and watch for children during peak trick or treating hours of 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Turn your headlights on earlier in the day to help spot children from a greater distance.
- Remove distractions, such as your cell phone, so you can focus on the road and be aware of your surroundings.
- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Take extra time to look for children at intersections, curbs and before pulling in and out of driveways.

Fact: On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

Pumpkin carving safety

- Always have an adult carve the pumpkins. Children can help by cleaning out the inside of the pumpkin or drawing a design for the adult to carve.
- It is important to thoroughly dry all tools, surfaces and hands prior to carving to prevent a slip injury while carving.
- When carving, use a serrated pumpkin saw from a pumpkin carving kit and always cut away from yourself, in a slow, controlled motion.
- Should an injury occur, apply direct pressure to the wound with a clean towel and immediately seek medical attention.
- Light your pumpkin with a battery powered LED candle or glow stick.

