

Halloween Safety Tips

The following Halloween safety tips are to help you and your child enjoy a safe and happy holiday.

Dress children in bright colors and send a flashlight with them so they will be visible in the dark. Attach reflective material to the costumes.

Costumes should be snug fitting to prevent falls.

Avoid masks. However, if you and your child decide to use a mask, beard or wig, be sure it is labeled "flame resistant." Be sure your child can easily see through the decorations.

An adult should accompany pre-school and early elementary aged children at all times.

Instruct older children who will trick or treat without adult supervision to stay in a group. Tell them what to do if a stranger approaches (they should scream to draw attention to the stranger's activities, run away, and then seek out the nearest adult to help them).

Remind trick or treaters of basic street safety (stop lights, crossing at designated areas, etc.) and set a good example for the children you chaperon.

Insist that children visit only the homes of people they know.

Dress children appropriately for the expected weather. Comfort is a higher priority than the visual appeal of the costume. Costumes can be worn over warm clothing.

Inspect all treats **before** anything is eaten. Throw out anything with torn wrappers, homemade items (unless you know the source) or anything that looks as if it has been tampered with.

Limit your child's consumption of candy. Too much, too quickly causes upset stomachs.

Jack-o'-Lanterns with candles should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes can brush against the flame. Jack-o'-Lanterns that are kept indoors should be kept away from curtains, decorations and other furnishings that can catch on fire.

Consider alternatives to traditional door-to-door trick or treating:

- Host a party for neighborhood kids.
- Take your child to an area shopping mall for indoor trick or treating.