



## Halloween safety

October is a fun time of year for families as they plan for Halloween festivities. However, Halloween does come with some child safety risks that are important for parents and caregivers to be aware of to help ensure a safe celebration.

### Choose safe costumes

- Visibility is key. Flashlights, glow tape and glow sticks can be built right into kids' costumes to ensure they are highly visible in the dark.
- Make sure the costume fits properly. Costumes should be large enough to allow warm clothes underneath, but short enough to prevent tripping.
- For little superheroes, capes should fasten with Velcro® that easily pulls apart. Capes and other costume pieces should never be tied around a child's neck. It is important that younger children know the difference between what people do on television or movies and what they can do in real life.
- Face paints and makeup in place of masks are a safer choice for kids to be able to see clearly.

### Pick treats wisely

- After trick-or-treating, an adult should check all candy. Unwrapped candy should not be eaten.
- Hard candy is a choking hazard for children three years of age or younger.
- Food allergies are serious. It is important to consider children with food allergies, and to offer treats that are nut free.
- Offer a healthier alternative to candy. Give trick or treaters age-appropriate, non-food treats like temporary tattoos or stickers instead.

### Decorate with care

- Homeowners should consider small children when setting up spooky displays.
- Keep outdoor lights on, and make sure paths are well-lit.
- Remove tripping hazards from your porch or walkway before greeting trick or treaters.
- Illuminate carved pumpkins with flashlights or glow sticks rather than candles to prevent fire.

### Safety tips for drivers and pedestrians

- Be alert for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Slow down and scan the road in areas where kids are likely to be or where visibility is limited.
- Walk on a sidewalk if one is available and use crosswalks. Never walk between parked cars or in the street.
- Create a "buddy system" to walk in pairs or groups. Never walk alone.

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