

10 Tips for Keeping Your Kids Safe While Trick-or-Treating

Halloween can be an exciting time for kids. Help them remain safe by remembering these 10 tips while trick or treating.

1. Before leaving your house, check out the sex offender data base and see if there are any sex offenders in the area the kids will be in. If your child is allowed to go out alone or with friends, make sure they know and understand what an offender is and that they must stay away from that house (even if they have the best decorations of all the houses and are giving out the “best” candy).
2. Only go to homes of people you know. It’s important for your kids to remember *stranger danger*.
3. Make sure your kids know to never go into anyone’s house. There are some pretty frightening stories about kids knocking on the door and being told to come in and get candy. Even if your child may not understand the danger of going into a house, you do. So before your child goes trick or treating, sit down and have a discussion about the rules of staying safe.
4. Don’t allow children under the age of 12 to be out alone trick or treating without adult supervision. If your child is going out with their friends, make sure you set up designated times for them to “check in” with you. Make sure they have a fully charged cell phone with the ringer volume turned all the way up for them to hear.
5. Walk on a sidewalk with good lighting. If there isn't a sidewalk, walk the opposite direction of traffic so you can see an oncoming car.
6. Have your kids carry a flashlight, glow stick, or ensure costumes have adhesive reflectors so that they are easily seen in the dark.
7. Tell your children not to talk to anyone driving by in a car. Remind them that adults should not be asking children for help, they should be asking other adults. If approached, they need to report this to a trusted adult immediately.
8. Make sure costumes are well-fitted and safe. Prevent accidental tripping and entanglement by making sure costumes aren't too big or long. Avoid masks that block vision. If your child wears one, it should have large eye, nose, and mouth openings. You can also opt for makeup or face paint. Ensure that costumes, wigs, and accessories are labeled flame resistant.



9. Review with children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they ever become lost or have an emergency.
10. Be aware that even if not listed on the ingredient label, candy is at a high risk of containing trace amounts of common allergy triggers because factories often produce many different products. Also, "fun size" or miniature candies may have different products or may be made on different equipment than the regular size candies, meaning that the candy your child previously ate without problems could cause a reaction.

Halloween Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Beginning at twilight, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.



Frightening Halloween Statistics

- Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day in the year.
- Only 18% of parents put reflective tape on their children's costumes.
- There are nearly 4,000 Halloween-related injuries every year.
- 12% of children under the age of 5 are sent out to trick-or-treat on their own.
- Only 70% of parents go trick-or-treating with their kids.