



Playing it Safe on Halloween Pointers for Parents



Making Safe Costumes

- Check that costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near candlelit jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.
- Try makeup instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision—a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective

Consider This....

Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire stations, libraries, even malls in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other festivities for families.

Pranks That Can Be a Little Tricky

Halloween is notoriously a night of pranks—toilet papering a house or filling mailboxes with shaving cream are not unusual. Try to get a handle on your children's plans before they go out. Explain to them that while you want them to have a good time, some tricks could hurt other people or vandalize property. Emphasize that you disapprove of vandalism.

Preparing Ghosts and Goblins for Their Tricks and Treats

- Make sure older kids go out with friends. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. If you live in a rural area, offer all kids a ride in the car.
- Set a time limit for children to trick-or-treat.
- Together, map out a safe route so you know where they'll be. Remind them not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields.
- Remind kids not to enter a strange house or car.
- Try to get kids to trick-or-treat while it is still light out. If it is dark, make sure the children are carrying flashlights that work.

Eating the Treats

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home.
- Check out all treats at home in a well lighted place.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.