

# Halloween Safety

ODH warns us on a night of fun and frights, Pedestrian Safety should be the primary focus. On average, twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween compared to other days of the year. Safe Kids USA offers the following tips.

## What drivers can do to watch out for trick-or-treaters:

- **Slow down** in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are during the typical rush-hour period of 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Be especially alert** and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- **Slowly and carefully** enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- **Reduce any distractions** inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.



## What parents can teach their children to do:

- **Cross the street safely at corners**, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.
- **Walk on sidewalks or paths.** If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- **Slow down and stay alert** - watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- **Costumes can be both creative and safe.** Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible instead. Have kids carry glow sticks or



flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers. Be mindful of trip and fall hazards when designing costumes.<sup>1</sup>

## Treats



Parents and kids should also be careful when dealing with candy. Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can carefully inspect it for tampering.

### **The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends:**

- Providing a good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating to discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- Waiting until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.

# Tricks

## **One more thing to remember:**

Halloween should be a fun night for kids but it can also be night that child predators look for victims. Remind your children to never get into the car of a stranger at any time. If someone stops them and asks for help or offers them candy, tell them to scream as loud as they can and run.



<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org>

## **For more information about Halloween safety visit:**

<http://www.safekids.org/our-work/programs/walk-this-way/halloween.html>

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/octhalloween.cfm>

<sup>1</sup> Safe Kids USA