



Halloween Safety Tips

A FREE Safety
Report



Keeping Kids Safe Is Our Business

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FAMILY TIPS FOR A SAFE TRICK OR TREATS

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ONE

The Scare That Started It All



“Don’t eat that candy before I check it!”

“If it’s not wrapped throw it away!”

“Throw that apple away!”

Does this sound familiar? Is this you? Do you understand WHY you are saying these things to your child?

Most of us are saying these things to our kids because we heard them as children from our parents. But, what’s the reality behind them and do we really have to be fearful?

The “scare” that our children’s candy may be poisoned or that it may contain something that would be dangerous for them to bite into was perpetuated by a news report, years ago. A writer reported that a parent found a razor blade in a child’s candy bar.

The story swept the nation like wildfire and the seed of fear and paranoia was. In retrospect, it was only one isolated incident. Did you know that it turned out to be a false report?

That part of the story never “caught fire” so today we still have the fear of tainted candy being deviously sipped to our children. The actual percentage of finding something harmful or deadly in your child’s candy bag is about a million to one.



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As a parent, I still check my children's bag. As a child safety expert, I'd tell you to do the same too.

We can never do enough about keeping our children safe. As soon as we let our guard down some evil individual could shock all of us.

Keep your parental guard up. However, do it without creating or fostering fear and paranoia in your child. You can talk to them and be honest about good Halloween safety without shocking your child, especially if they are very young.

For example, poke through your child's bag because you tell them you're interested in seeing the "loot" they received Trick-Or-Treating. Tell them stories about your favorite candy and when you were doing the same as a kid. Make a game out of it as you keep a watchful eye on items in the bag.



TWO

A Quick Halloween Safety Checklist



Here's our Quick Checklist for overall Halloween Safety:

- Be familiar with the neighborhood you trick or treat in. You don't want to run into any gang activity or a neighborhood full of teenagers that use the holiday to intimidate younger children.
- Make sure your child's costume can be easily seen at night. Decorate it with reflective tape so motorists and others can easily see them.
- Try to avoid having the child wear a mask with their costume or make sure the mask allows them to have a complete field of vision. Most masks limit the child's ability to see well and could be a factor in causing them to trip or run into low objects.
- Carry some sort of flashlight and a set of fresh batteries.
- If you approach a house or property and hear a dog barking continue with caution or just pass it by and go to the next house.



THREE

Additional Halloween Safety Tips



Costume Safety

Kids like to choose their own costumes. Make sure you inspect them before they put them on for pins or sharp tags.

For good visibility, add some reflective tape to the costume or bag he is using to carry candy or make/choose a costume made of bright material that is visible in the dark.

-choose a costume made of flame retardant material

-costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause your child to trip and fall

-masks should fit securely and allow your child to see well and not hinder visibility

-if using face paint, make sure it is nontoxic and hypoallergenic

-knives, swords and other props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen on

Trick-or-Treating Safety

Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well known neighborhoods.



Additionally:

- carry a flashlight
- stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only
- follow traffic signals and rules of the road
- drive slowly
- avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys
- stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets

Candy Safety

Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can carefully inspect it for tampering.

Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go. Don't send them out on an empty stomach.

- Tell children not to accept and, especially, not to eat anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Throw out candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.)
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.
- Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before



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allowing children to eat it.

General Safety Tips

Homeowners should prepare their home for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining dogs and other animals, and lighting the house well.

Additionally:

-provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers.

-artificial lights and candles are a safer alternative to real candles with a flame that can pose a fire hazard

-if going to an adult Halloween party, make sure that you don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver if alcohol is being consumed.

Halloween can both be loads of fun and safe for all
Involved!