



Halloween Safety for Your Ghosts, Monsters, and Goblins!

Trick...or Treat? The traditional evening of costumes, candy and fun is right around the corner! Whether your child is tricking, treating or attending a Halloween party, there are several safety tips that you can follow as your child celebrates this holiday.

- Make sure your child's costume and all of its parts (mask, wig, etc.) are made of materials that cannot burn. Most costumes meeting this standard will be labeled "flame retardant."
- Make sure that your child wears a mask that doesn't interfere with his eyesight, hearing or breathing. Test the mask for these things before Halloween night and make adjustments as needed.
- Make sure your child is able to walk comfortably in his costume and shoes. Long or baggy costumes, high heels on shoes or boots might cause a child to trip or fall.
- Make sure your child is wearing some sort of light or reflective clothing so that he is visible to approaching traffic. To avoid traffic, make sure that your child walks on the sidewalks of your neighborhood rather than in the street.
- If your child is trick or treating, make sure that he does so in a group. Adults and/or teenagers should accompany children as escorts to the doors of all houses.
- Plan to trick or treat in the early evening and at homes where you are welcomed by an outside light. Use flashlights when you are walking with your child and discourage children from cutting across lawns to get to houses.

- Carefully inspect all trick or treat items collected by children. Save only store wrapped treats and throw away anything that is not wrapped- or that has torn wrappings.
- Make sure that your child eats dinner or a snack before going trick or treating so that candy and other sweets will not tempt him while treats are being collected.

To ensure that your own house is a safe one on Halloween, please follow these safety tips for your own home.

- Keep your porch light on for trick or treaters who might visit your home.
- If your family has a Jack-o-Lantern lit by a candle, keep the pumpkin away from curtains, tablecloths, and other items, including costumes, that could catch fire.
- Only give store-wrapped or pre-packaged food to children for their trick or treat bags.
- Remove all hazards in your yard and on your sidewalk such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations
- Plan a Halloween party for children in your neighborhood at your home or at a location that is accessible to all children as an alternative to trick or treating

For more information about Halloween Safety or to obtain a quantity of a "Halloween Safety Smart" activity sheet for kids and parents, contact the Community Education Department at Riley Hospital for Children at 317-274-2964.