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## Tips for a safe, happy Halloween

### Get the facts

Did you know the biggest threat to children on Halloween is cars?

Children on foot, between the ages of 4 and 15, are four times more likely to get hit on this night, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's easy for children — caught up in the fun of the night — to trip, fall or dash into the street.

That's why it's important to know and use basic safety tips. They can help lower your child's risk.

### Safety basics

#### Costume

- **Choose a costume with bright colors.** Or stick on reflective tape. Masks should also be easy to see out of.
- **Stay away from sharp objects.** Play swords and wands are great. But go for materials like foam, not metals or hard plastics.
- **Remove any item that could cause choking or a fall.** In all the excitement, ropes, cords or fabric strips can easily get in the way.

#### Trick or treating

- **Go to or throw a party instead.** You avoid street traffic and “stranger danger.”
- **Travel in groups.** The rule to go by is one adult to every four kids. Explain to children they must stay together. Holding hands helps. Also, stick to neighborhoods you know and carry a flashlight.
- **Cross at corners or crosswalks.** Children should always cross with an adult and never run.
- **Tell kids it's never okay to go in a stranger's home.** Let kids know that if a stranger says come in for candy, the answer is always “no, thank you.”

#### Candy and pumpkin carving

- **Carefully check the candy.** Make sure it is well sealed. Also, look at the size and ingredients. Be certain there is nothing your child is allergic to or will choke on.
- **Stop tummy troubles before they start.** Only give your child a few pieces or one serving size of candy at a time.
- **Leave pumpkin carving to the adults.** Let your child draw the designs and then you can cut them out. Also, only adults should handle any matches or candles.

**Get more Halloween safety tips.**  
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