10 tips to keep your ghosts & goblins safe this Halloween

Halloween is a popular time of year for kids and families. Making or choosing costumes, decorating and coordinating trick-or-treat plans with friends often are all part of the excitement. But, Halloween comes with its own set of safety risks. Here are 10 tips to make sure little ghosts and goblins stay safe.

Choose Safe Costumes

1. Choose costumes that fit properly. Costumes should be large enough to allow warm clothes underneath, but short enough to prevent tripping. Do not allow children to wear adult shoes or boots.
2. For little superheroes, be sure to fasten capes with Velcro® that easily pulls apart. Never tie capes or other costume pieces around a child’s neck. Also, close and lock windows so children do not attempt to open and jump from them; explain the difference between what people do on television or movies and what they can do in real life.
3. Use facial paints and cosmetics in place of masks. If a mask is used, make certain the eye and nose openings do not restrict vision or breathing.

Trick-or-Treating

4. Make sure drivers can see costumes in the dark. It’s a startling fact that children are twice as likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than any other day of the year. Be original with a glow-in-the-dark costume or a reflective trick-or-treat bag. Children should use a flashlight or glow stick when walking at night.
5. Trick-or-treat in a group, not alone. Kids younger than 13 should go with an adult. Older kids always should go with buddies and follow a preplanned route.
6. Remind kids to cross streets at crosswalks and intersections, stop at street corners, look left, right and left again before crossing. They should not cross between parked cars or step into the street without looking to see if a vehicle is coming.
7. Kids should only visit homes of people they know and only accept treats at the door.

Home Safety

8. Keep outdoor lights on and remove tripping hazards from your porch and walkway when greeting trick-or-treaters.
9. Illuminate carved pumpkins with flashlights or glow sticks rather than candles.
10. Only hand out wrapped treats that don’t spoil. Consider handing out age-appropriate, non-food treats like temporary tattoos or stickers to younger children instead of candy.

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Keep Spriggy Safe on Halloween!

Spriggy is planning to go trick-or-treating, but he doesn’t have his costume yet. Color Spriggy in and draw a costume on him, making sure to choose one that’s safe. Read the Halloween safety tips on the other side of this sheet before you begin. What do YOU think Spriggy should dress as for Halloween?