Halloween is one of the most exciting times of the year for children, but sometimes hectic for parents and guardians. This Halloween, take a moment to consider basic safety precautions to help make your children's Halloween a safer night of fun.

Before Halloween

- Choose bright costumes, and have children carry flashlights or glow sticks so they are easily visible.
 (Hint – Try adding reflective tape to costumes and candy bags!)
- Plan a trick-or-treating route in familiar neighborhoods with well-lit streets.
- Make sure children know your cellphone number, their home telephone number, and address in case you get separated. Consider giving them a cellphone so they can reach you easily.
- Teach children how to call 911 in an emergency.
- Teach children to say "NO!" in a loud voice if someone tries to get them to go somewhere, accept anything other than a treat, or leave with them. Tell them to try everything they can to escape, including yelling, hitting, and kicking.

On Halloween

- Make sure older children take friends and stay together while trick-or-treating.
- Never send younger children out alone – they should be with a parent, guardian, or another trusted adult.
- Always walk younger children to the door to receive treats.
- Don't let children enter a home unless you are with them.
- Be sure children do not approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless you are with them.



To learn more about protecting your child, visit missingkids.com/families.



Copyright @ 2013 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children $^{\circ}.$ All rights reserved.

These tips are adapted from Know the Rules...Halloween Safety Tips, copyright © 1990, 2011 and 2013 all rights reserved.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2013-MC-FX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children[®] is a registered trademark of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.