

# Happy Halloween from the South Hampton Police Department!



Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to child safety. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury. On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween as on any other day of the year.

## Tips for Parents

1. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
2. Since masks can sometimes obstruct a child's vision, try non-toxic face paint and makeup whenever possible.
3. Have kids use glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
4. Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
5. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.
6. When selecting a costume make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

## Tips for Kids

1. Never, ever go into a stranger's house or even ring their door for treats unless your parents are with you and say that it's okay. There are some people in life that aren't very nice to kids and you have to be careful. Always make sure that your mom or dad is within sight when you go out trick-or-treating.
2. Be careful when you cross a street. Make sure to look in both directions and make sure that there are no cars coming. If you have a little brother or sister with you, take their hand and help them get across the street, too. If the street has a stop light, wait until the cross walk light tells you that it's okay to cross now, but still check before you cross, look both ways.

3. If you are an older kid or young teen, and going out with friends, make sure that your parents know where you are going and who you are going with. This may seem like a pain but they are your parents and they love you. They just want you to be safe.
4. If you parents give you a curfew, be home when they say. It builds trust between you and them and they are doing it for your own safety. If you are going to be late, call them and let them know.
5. Vandalism is never cool! Throwing eggs at cars and houses is not cool. Someone has to clean it up and it could be you, if you get caught. You can also be arrested and punished as a juvenile. So, don't think that it's fun only if you can get away with it. It's never the right thing to do! Think about how you would feel if someone did that to your house and how bad it would make you feel.
6. Have fun on Halloween but keep it safe, have some good, clean fun and your parents will trust you for many Halloweens to come!

Reference:

<http://www.safekids.org/halloween>

[http://www.halloween-safety.com/halloween\\_safety\\_kids.html](http://www.halloween-safety.com/halloween_safety_kids.html)

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