

October is Safety Month

October brings better weather and the start of the holiday season, with Halloween as the start of festive times. This issue of MLC Minutes will discuss how to make Trick or Treating a safe, fun event. It is important to keep in mind that Halloween is a safe and fun holiday as long as everyone takes the time to act responsibly.

The Scary Facts

According to SafeKids.org children are twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than any other day of the year.

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

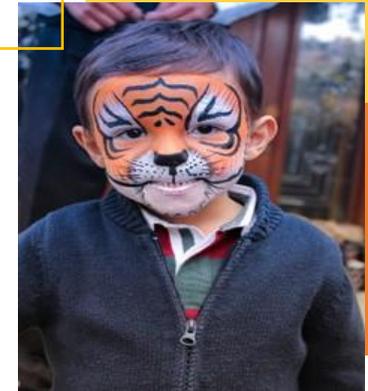
Put Safety First

- Limit the area you will travel door to door.
- Set a specific time that everyone will need to be home.
- Set a rule that no one enters a stranger's house.
- Create a route plan.
- Set up a safety word and a location to re-group in the event you become separated.
- No candies or treats are eaten until everyone returns home.

You look *Fang-tastic!*

Costumes are essential to Halloween. Keep in mind these tips when selecting the perfect outfit.

1. Use face paint. Avoid a mask; masks can limit field of vision resulting in falls or worse injuries from oncoming traffic
2. Design the costume to include glowsticks or battery-operated lights and reflective tape.
3. Make sure it fits! Oversized or too small will cause falls.



MLC October Family Minutes

A resource from our family to yours



Safe alternatives

Worrying about strangers and traffic can make any parent want to ban Halloween activities. Yet, there are safe alternatives! Consider attending a local Trunk or Treat event. These often are hosted in parking areas where traffic is controlled and parents can safely monitor all participants. Consider hosting a glow stick dance party for the local neighborhood children. Or for something more family oriented, have a Halloween craft and cookie night at home while dispensing treats at your own door.

Motorist Safety

Halloween is especially dangerous for drivers.

If you must drive; go slow, watch for kids walking on the street or running across driveways.

Drivers should make a greater effort to stay off electronics while driving and to not drink and drive if attending a Halloween party. If driving your child through a larger neighborhood, be sure to use your child's car seat or seatbelt between stops. Lastly, avoid parking in spots in which you might need to back up.

Fun Family Book

Spookley the Square Pumpkin by Joe Troiano.

This is a wonderful story to read to kids starting at Halloween and through the Fall season. The message is one of acceptance.

This book has been enjoyed so much it has been turned into a movie that can be found on Disney Jr. and Netflix.



Top Ten Non-Candy Treats

Candy is fun but too much is no fun! It is always nice to consider those with allergies and be the fun surprise in a child's treat bag. Think about these alternatives:

1. Slime
2. Vampire Teeth
3. Stamps
4. Slinkies
5. Glow Bracelets
6. Playdough
7. Bubbles
8. Novelty key chains
9. Temporary Tattoos
10. LED Rings

Resources

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/halloween-safety-tips>

<https://www.consumerreports.org/car-safety/smart-road-tips-for-halloween-car-safety/>