**Halloween Tips!**

**ALL DRESSED UP:**

* Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
* Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
* Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives.  Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.
* When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
* If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long.
* Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
* Teach children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost.

**CARVING A NICHE:**

* Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers.
* Votive candles are safest for candle-lit pumpkins.
* Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.

**HOME SAFE HOME:**

* To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.
* Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
* Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps.
* Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.

**ON THE TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL:**

* A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
* If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
* Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
* Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or Treaters:
* Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
* Carry a cell phone for quick communication.
* Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
* If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
* Never cut across yards or use alleys.
* Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.
* Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
* Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

**HEALTHY HALLOWEEN:**

* A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
* Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
* Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
* Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.

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