

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Child pedestrians are more than twice as likely to be killed by a car on Halloween night than at any other time of year. Here are some Talking Points and Activities to help ensure a safer and happier Halloween for everyone.



TALKING POINTS

- **What are 3 things you can do to get ready for Trick or Treating?** (Check the weather; bring a grown-up; wear a bright costume that is easy to walk in.)
- **Where are the safest places to walk?** (On sidewalks or far to the side of the road; walk along the curb facing traffic; use crosswalks; walk where parents say it is safe.)
- **How many ways should you look before you cross the street?** (Look "left-right-left" or "all ways." Watch for cars turning right or left.)
- **What can you do to make sure drivers see you before you walk in front of their cars?** (Wave at the driver and wait for him or her to wave back; make sure you can see the driver's eyes looking at you; wear a bright costume; use a flashlight.)
- **If you wear a bright costume does that mean drivers will always see you and stop for you?** (No. You still have to obey safe walking rules and watch all around you.)



- **How many traffic signs and signals can you think of? What do they mean?**



SAFER COSTUMES

- **Play "I spy."** Ask a child to look for something bright; have the other children take turns asking questions until they figure out what it is. The person who guesses correctly can be the next person to think of something bright. Remind children that Halloween costumes should be bright and easy for drivers to see, easy to walk in without tripping, and to wear comfortable shoes.
- **Count how many children have on something bright.** Ask if someone can explain why walkers and trick-or-treaters are safer when they wear bright clothing and use a flashlight.
- **Use retroreflective tape.** Show children the retroreflective strips on someone's sneakers. You can buy retroreflective tape and let children put pieces on their trick-or-treat bags and costumes before Halloween.



SAFE CROSSING

- **Safe or Unsafe:** Before crossing a street, play "safe or unsafe." Stand in various places (mid-block, at a curb, at the edge of a crosswalk, etc.). At each place, ask children to tell you if that spot is a safe or unsafe place to cross the street. Can anyone tell you why?

Follow the Leader:

Practice "safe crossing" before Halloween. Pick a pair of children as the leaders. With a grown-up, have the children show how to safely cross a street. The remaining children should follow behind and do what the leaders do. Coach the "leaders" to stop at the curb, look left-right-left; make eye contact/wave at drivers and wait for the driver to wave back before they cross in front of the vehicle; and to continue looking left-right-left as they cross. Watch for drivers who may be making a left or right turn into the childrens' path.

Safe-Thinking: If you are using a crosswalk, can a car still drive into it? Why should you cross a street with a grown-up until you are at least 10 years old?



SAFE WALKING

- **Traffic Signals Scavenger Hunt:** How many different traffic signals and signs can children find on their way to school. (If there aren't any, you can ask how many they can think of.) Do the signals always mean the same thing for drivers and for walkers?

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- **Practice Using Senses:** Can children hear a car or truck approach? Can they feel the ground shake? What could interfere with their hearing? (headphones or not paying attention) Why is it important to be able to hear as well as see oncoming traffic?
- **Sing "We all Go Walking Two-by-Two"** to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching One-by-One." Words and motions are provided to the right. (Motions are optional, designed for use before or after walking.)
- **Safe-Thinking:** Do drivers always stop for red lights and at stop signs? Do traffic signs and signals always mean the same thing for drivers and for walkers? (If legal, you can talk about drivers making right-hand turns at stop signs or when the light is red.)



WE ALL GO WALKING . . .

Sing to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching One-by-One."

WORDS

We all go walking two-by-two, hurrah, hurrah. (repeat)
We all go walking two-by-two; we follow the rules; we know what to do. And we all go walking safe, with our friends, from the start to the end. Boom, boom, boom, boombah, boom, boom, boom . . .

MOTIONS

Have children march in place or march following the teacher. On "know what to do," children can point to their heads.

When we walk, we bring a grown-up, hurrah, hurrah. (repeat) We bring a grown-up and wear bright clothes; we make sure our parents know where we go. And we all go walking safe, with our friends, from the start to the end. Boom, boom, boom, boombah, boom, boom, boom . . .

Have children pretend to hold the hand of someone who is bigger than they are as they march and sing.

Before we cross streets, we look all ways, hurrah, hurrah. (repeat) We keep on looking as we cross - left, right, left - we do not stop. And we all go walking safe, with our friends, from the start to the end. Boom, boom, boom, boombah, boom, boom, boom . . .

Have the children pretend to stop at a curb and look all ways as they sing. They can then march forward across the pretend street, continuing to look all ways as they cross.

We pay attention and walk on sidewalks hurrah, hurrah. (repeat) If there's no sidewalk, stay far to the side. We make sure we face the cars driving by. And we all go walking safe, with our friends, from the start to the end. Boom, boom, boom, boombah, boom, boom, boom.

Have the children march on a sidewalk or around the border of a large rug as they sing.

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