

McGruff on Halloween

Synopsis

Halloween is a day for having fun, playing games, and dressing up in imaginative costumes. But, Halloween is also a day for being extra careful and following the important safety measures presented in this program by McGruff the Crime Dog.

While observing the preparation for how to safely celebrate Halloween. Using examples from his files, he gives important and lasting advice.

Rick's father has just bought him his Halloween costume to wear to that night's party. Together, Rick and his father make some last minute adjustments to the costume to make sure it is safe. First, Rick's father points out that the costume is fire retardant, meaning it won't catch fire if exposed to flame. Secondly, the costume is light in color so that it can be seen easily in the dark. To be extra safe, Rick's father also applies strips of reflective tape to the front and back of the costume for the added visibility to motorists and other pedestrians. Next, they make sure the costume fits properly, is easy to move around in, and allowed for good vision and alertness. Nancy and Melissa are also dressing up for the party. Melissa is wearing a mask

and soon discovers how dangerous it can be as she accidentally trips over an object she doesn't see. Nancy points out the hazards associated with wearing a mask, especially poor visibility. She suggests Melissa try using her water-soluble make-up for a scary look instead of wearing a mask and risking injury.

Gary, Chris, and Brenda shows how to safely go trick-or-treating. They travel together in a group, accompanied by a responsible adult carrying a flashlight. They walk in a well-lighted, familiar neighborhoods and only stop at homes with porch lights on. They don't go inside a stranger's home or car and are careful to walk on the sidewalk and cross at crosswalks. They look out for each other and know the importance of never harming someone else or someone's property.

After trick-or-treating, all treats should be carefully inspected by an adult and any candy found out of its original wrapped or homemade items from strangers should be thrown away.

McGruff makes a final suggestion that youngsters attend neighborhood Halloween parties instead of trick-or-treating. There's music, dancing, games, scary stories, and movies, and a responsible adult has already inspected the treats. Practicing these important safety rules will help kids have a fun Halloween while they help take a bite out of crime!

Questions to ask before viewing

1. What kinds of activities do you like to do to celebrate Halloween?
2. What special safety precautions do you feel are necessary at Halloween?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. What are some important considerations when dressing up in a Halloween costume? (Wear costumes that are fire retardant: make sure the costume fits properly and allows for good visibility: choose a costume that is light in color and mark the costume with reflective tape so others can see you.)
2. How did Melissa find out that masks aren't very safe forms of costumes? (She stumbles due to not being able to see properly out of her mask.)
3. What is a better alternative to wearing masks and why? (Water-soluble make-up is a much better choice because it allows for better visibility which helps you to stay alert. It also washes off easily, and you can use it to create a variety of looks.)
4. Discuss some important safety measures to take when going trick-or-treating. (Never go alone: have an adult to with you, carrying a flashlight: stay in a well-lighted, familiar neighborhoods: only approach homes that have their porch lights on: stay on the sidewalk and cross the street only at crosswalks: never accept a ride from a stranger.)
5. What should you do if someone you don't know asks you to come inside his or her home while you are trick-or-treating? (You should simply say, "no thank-you" and continue on your way.)
6. When finished trick-or treating, what should you do before eating any of the treats? (Have an adult inspect all treats that are not in their wrapper or any homemade items from strangers should be immediately thrown away.)
7. Why are neighborhood Halloween parties a better alternative to trick-or treating? (there is a variety of fun activities to take part in such as listening to music, dancing, playing games, watching movies, and treats there have already been inspected by an adult.)

Additional Activities

- Plan a Halloween party including all of the activities you would like to take part in. Plan the food you would serve, and hold a costume-judging contest. See if you can design a fun party that is a better alternative to trick-or-treating.
- Act out some role-play situations on having a safe Halloween. For example, practice what to say if a stranger ask you to come into their home or offers to give you ride. Practice inspecting treats for tampering.
- Come up with some imaginative types of Halloween costumes and discuss how you would create them and how to make them safe.

Related Titles in the AIMS Collection

8135 *McGruff's Gang Alert*
8136 *McGruff on Vandalism*
9913 *McGruff's Drug Alert*
9733 *Crime Prevention: It's Elementary*
9915 *McGruff's Guide to Personal Safety*
9914 *McGruff on Personal Property*

Length

- 14 Minutes

Subject areas

- Guidance and Counseling, Crime Prevention, Safety

Audience Levels

- Primary-Intermediate

Catalog number

- 8212

AIMS
Discussion Guide

McGruff's Self-Care Alert Objectives

- To show youngsters how to have fun Halloween while keeping safe.
- To demonstrate ways of making Halloween costumes safe to wear and highly visible for others motorists and pedestrians
- To provide important safety tips on trick-or-treating.
- To show the advantages of attending a neighborhood Halloween party instead of trick-or-treating.

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