



TIPS FOR A 'SPOOKTACULAR' HALLOWEEN

It's that time of year again when the children of the house turn into little ghouls! Halloween is becoming increasingly popular in Australia, with children across many of our suburbs wanting to dress up in costumes and go door to door 'trick or treating'. Before children take to the streets, police recommend that parents talk to them about how to behave to help them stay safe when they're out and about.

These Halloween safety tips are to help parents and caregivers ensure their kids have a safe and enjoyable Halloween:

- Children 'trick or treating' should be accompanied by a trusted, responsible person.
- Children and young people should walk, not run, when going from house to house.
- They need to obey traffic rules, watch out for cars, use proper road crossings where available and watch out for younger children.
- Children should stay on the footpath at all times. If there is no footpath, walk single file on the right hand side facing traffic, or reconsider allowing the children to use that route.
- Take extra care when crossing roads as children may find it hard to see so well in a costume.
- If using a skateboard, rollerblades or bikes, a helmet must be worn.
- After knocking on the door and saying 'trick or treat' children or young people should stay at the front door and not enter the person's house, even if invited inside while the person looks for treats. They should also leave immediately if asked to do so.
- Sometimes, a person whose door is knocked either doesn't want to participate, or selects a trick instead of providing a treat. Children and young people should be told any trick must not cause harm, fear, damage or be abusive in any way.
- Be respectful of other members of the community as not everyone celebrates Halloween. Some people will be genuinely concerned or fearful of any doorknockers. If you are aware of someone like that, make sure your children know not to bother them.
- Parents may consider an alternative to 'trick or treating' by holding a Halloween party at home; that way children are supervised and still celebrating Halloween.
- If a house full of little monsters is not appealing, neighbouring families could set up a safe house arrangement, where children are given a list of addresses of participating families to doorknock in the locality, and these are the only houses they go to.

