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# Safe and scary

Don't loosen your safety rules on **Halloween**

**A**s the day of tricks and treats approaches, the anticipation of ghosts, goblins, fairies and frogs dashing through the streets of busy neighborhoods taunts parents. As my older children enter their teens and pre-teens, it becomes increasingly more difficult to keep them at my side on this fun holiday. While my husband and I encourage our kids to be independent, there are times it is imperative for us to provide boundaries to ensure their safety. Halloween is one of those times.

While I may not be the most popular mom when I insist that my children look both ways and stay with a group, the devastating results of not reminding kids of the safety rules is not worth the risk. Each year, hundreds of children are injured on Halloween. More than 84 percent of traffic-related injuries occur on side streets, not at intersections. It is imperative that children of all ages remember that safety comes before treats.

As for the tricks, this too can be a haunting fate of children who step outside of their comfort level for the thrill of the eve. While I may sound doom and gloom, the reality is many parents will spend the evening sparring with teens who want to exert their freedom and enjoy the tricks that come with this spooky night. Law enforcement officers encourage parents to stick to their guns (no pun intended) and hold firm to early curfews and a tight watch. ➔



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