

Trick-or-Treat Checklist for Kids Who Wander

Darkness, crowds and open doors make Halloween harder for children who wander or bolt. Tick these off before you go, and keep this sheet by the door.

BEFORE THE NIGHT

- ☐ Route walked in daylight. **Short**, on quiet streets, away from water and busy roads.
- ☐ **Meeting spot** chosen and practised, and every adult told.
- ☐ **ID inside the costume:** name and a parent's mobile number. Never the home address on the outside.
- ☐ Bright or reflective costume, glow stick and flashlight, nothing over the eyes.
- ☐ **Who watches, at every moment**, written down, including breaks.

MEETING SPOT

ADULT WATCHING OUR CHILD

AT HOME

- ☐ **Chime or alarm** on the front door, batteries checked.
- ☐ Candy handed out from **outside, door closed**, or a gate or closed inner door.
- ☐ If our child stays home, one adult stays with them, not with the door.

ON THE NIGHT

- ☐ **Photo taken tonight:** full length in costume, front and back, and one with the mask off.
- ☐ **One adult assigned only to our child.** Handovers said out loud.
- ☐ Check-ins agreed: hand holding between houses, head counts at corners.
- ☐ Ear defenders, a favourite snack or object, a place for a **sensory break**, and a signal for "I'm done".

IF OUR CHILD GOES MISSING

- ☐ **Call 911 and check the nearest water at the same time.** One adult calls while another runs to the nearest water.
Alone? Call on speaker as you go. (911 works in the US and Canada.)
- ☐ Give responders **tonight's photo**. Describe the costume and what is underneath.
- ☐ Tell them the **diagnosis and how our child communicates**.
- ☐ One adult at home, one at the meeting spot.