

HAPPY Halloween

By Dr. Dina Kulik



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17 Awesome Ways to Safely Celebrate Halloween During COVID-19



Many of our kids feel a sense of loss for the traditional Halloween experience this year. But all hope is NOT lost! We can still have a blast this time of year, in a safe and joyful way.

Here are some ideas to make Halloween fun despite the pandemic.

1. DECORATE YOUR HOUSE TO THE MAX!

Decorate your house inside and out. Your kids can get in on the fun and hang decorations from your porch or balcony, and all over your home. There are tons of store-bought options available or do it yourself for a fun art activity. Check out Pinterest or Google for endless ideas!

2. DECORATE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

If you have a reusable tree at home, consider decorating it for Halloween this year too! This will get you and your kids in the holiday spirit with months to spare.

3. ZOOM COSTUME PARTY

Host a Halloween-themed costume party on Zoom for friends and family. You can create a spooky playlist for a dance party in costume. Those that attend can show off their costumes on camera and can even award prizes (such as e-gift cards, or donations in their honor).

4. ZOOM PUMPKIN CARVING CONTESTS

Host a Halloween-themed costume party on Zoom for friends and family. You can create a spooky playlist for a dance party in costume. Those that attend can show off their costumes on camera and can even award prizes (such as e-gift cards, or donations in their honor).

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5. REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING

Instead of kids going out door to door to pick up their loot, in reverse trick-or-treating neighbors drive by houses, and can deliver (or cautiously throw) candy or prizes to kids dressed up in costumes in their own yards.

6. 'BOO' YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

You can drop a goodie bag on the doorsteps of friends and neighbors as a contact free way to spread the Halloween cheer. To 'boo' your loved one, sneak up to the porch, ring the doorbell, leave the treats on the porch, and take off. Contactless fun! Please, be mindful of potentially sleeping little ones.

7. HAVE A HALLOWEEN MOVIE MARATHON

Hang with your family or bubble on your couch or consider projecting a Halloween classic in your backyard for a socially distanced party. Each person can enjoy the movie with their own snack-bag of popcorn.

8. HAVE A SOCIALLY DISTANT COSTUME BIKE PARADE

Consider taking your little ones on a bike or walking parade, dressed in their Halloween costumes. This can be a form of drive or walk-by trick-or-treating.

9. SCAVENGER HUNT

For kids that aren't going out this year, consider decorating rooms in your house, hiding candy or prizes in each room. Send them on a scavenger hunt to find all the hidden objects.

10. TRY OUT A DRIVE-THRU HAUNTED HOUSE

This will be scary for some kids, but for those brave among us, drive thru, contact-free Halloween experiences are a great way to partake in Halloween in a safe and distanced way. Search online for ones near you.

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11. DRIVE-IN THEATER - HALLOWEEN STYLE

Drive-in theaters are all the rage now. Many will show Halloween movies in October, for socially distanced fun.

12. HALLOWEEN VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOMS

Escape rooms have become popular in the last few years, and now have pivoted to virtual! Try out a spooky option, or a more family-friendly one depending on your group.

13. TRICK-OR-TREAT VIRTUALLY FOR UNICEF

UNICEF launched a virtual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Experience. You can collect donations for UNICEF virtually, and teach your kids the joy of helping others less fortunate. Kids can participate in fun and empowering activities to earn 'coins' that can be exchanged for donations of soap, school supplies, vaccinations and other life changing and life-saving necessities for kids in need.

14. SET UP A CANDY GRAVEYARD

Deck out your yard for Halloween and enable kids to stay socially distant when picking up treats. Set up fake tombstones all over your yard, with prizes or candy next to each tombstone. Have each kid enter the graveyard one at a time, and have them pick up just one treat or bag at one tombstone to avoid contamination from other kids. Consider a hand sanitizer station for extra safety.

15. DECORATE FACE MASKS

Only in 2020 would this be a thing. But alas. Your kids can decorate cloth face masks to match their costumes, or even make as the costume itself. Stay festive and safe!



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16. ATTEND A TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Trunk or Treating is a socially distant trick-or-treat substitute. These are organized events typically held in a school or community center parking lot. Attendees decorate their trunks, and kids go trick-or-treating from car to car. Consider having designated adults who can sanitize their hands give out the candy to avoid lots of little hands reaching into a bowl.



17. SET UP A TRICK-OR-TREAT TABLE

COVID may necessitate ditching the typical Halloween candy bowl, but you can decorate a table in your yard where kids can pick up individual bags or cups of candy. Adults (with clean hands or gloves) can ensure each child only touches one bag/cup, and social distance is maintained. And decorating your table is a fun activity too.

However you end up celebrating Halloween, I wish you a safe and joyful time. Halloween 2020 will certainly be one to remember!

HELP YOUR KIDS WITH THESE HELPFUL TIPS ON WEARING A MASK (watch the videos)



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