



TRICK-OR-TREATING YOUR WAY!

A practical Halloween guide for every kind of communicator and mover

Practice the routine. Adapt the experience. Celebrate participation!

1 PRACTICE BEFORE THE BIG NIGHT

Start about a week ahead. Use a bedroom or front door: approach, knock (or use another signal), greet, receive a treat, and move along.

Include the sibling or adult who will go along on Halloween. Practice the real routine, including taking a break or saying "all done."

2 COMMUNICATION COUNTS

Your child can say "hi," "candy," or "trick or treat"; raise a bucket; gesture; hand over a picture card; or use a speech-generating device (SGD).

Put a large "TRICK OR TREAT!" sticker on the bucket if a picture exchange is difficult. Optional text: "I communicate without speaking."

3 A PHONE CAN SPEAK, TOO

Preload a text-to-speech message, or record a sibling or friend saying "Trick or treat!" Let your child tap play - or have a helper activate it.

Test the volume and practice using the same phone before Halloween. No child needs to speak or perform to receive a treat.

4 MAKE THE BUCKET WORK FOR THEM

Try a removable purse strap or a belt secured through a sturdy bucket handle for hands-free carrying. Keep the strap short, comfortable, and away from the neck.

For wheelchair users, decorate the chair as part of the costume and attach the bucket securely, clear of wheels and controls.

5 PLAN AHEAD FOR CANDY

If seeing a full bucket makes waiting difficult, discreetly move extra treats into a bag you carry. Leave just a few pieces visible in the bucket.

Do this at the car between stops or occasionally during trunk-or-treating. If your child wants candy right away, plan when to offer a suitable piece rather than making communication a requirement.

Check allergies, food restrictions, and choking risks; supervise eating.

6 DEFINE SUCCESS YOUR WAY

Choose a short route, quieter time, or just one house. Bring sensory supports and take breaks whenever needed.

A child does not have to speak, make eye contact, wear a costume, or say "thank you" to deserve kindness. One happy stop can be a wonderful Halloween.

OPTIONAL: A COMFY COSTUME IDEA

Bring your own comfortable T-shirt and \$5 to Building Kid Steps by Tuesday, October 20. Choose from eight Halloween designs; we will print and iron it on. Ask our team for details.