

My First Trick or Treat Adventure

Social Skill: Trick-or-treating etic Reading Level: Beginner

Type: Social story

Approach: Explicit



Halloween is a fun time when I can go trick-or-treating. On Halloween night, I dress up in a costume. Some people wear scary costumes, but my costume is safe and fun. When I wear a costume, I feel excited.



My parents and I walk around the neighborhood to different houses. We see other kids in costumes too. Everyone looks happy because it is a special night. I wait my turn if there are other kids at the door before me because being patient is important.



When we reach a house with lights on, I know I can knock on the door or ring the bell. I say 'trick or treat!' when the person answers. Saying 'trick or treat' is the right thing because it shows I am ready for Halloween fun.



Sometimes, the person at the door gives me candy. I always say 'thank you' when I get candy or treats. Saying 'thank you' makes everyone feel good, including me. After collecting candy, we go to the next house. I am happy because I am following the rules and having fun.

When we finish trick-or-treating, I feel proud. I had a great time going to houses, saying 'trick or treat,' and remembering to say 'thank you.' Halloween is a night that makes me smile.

Key Social Concepts

trick or treat

patient waiting

saying thank you

excitement

Social Rules

- wait your turn
- say 'trick or treat'
- say 'thank you'
- have fun safely

Social Understanding Questions

1. What do you say when someone answers the door while trick-or-treating?

- A. Trick or treat! *
- B. Boo!
- C. Happy Halloween!
- D. Give me candy!

2. How do you show you are ready for Halloween fun?

- A. Say 'trick or treat' *
- B. Jump up and down
- C. Run around
- D. Stay quiet

3. What should you do if there are other kids at the door before you?

- A. Wait your turn *
- B. Push to the front
- C. Yell loudly
- D. Leave and go to another house

4. How do you feel when you follow the rules and have fun on Halloween?

- A. Proud *
- B. Scared
- C. Sad
- D. Angry

** Indicates the correct answer*

Social Cues Guide: Trick-or-treating etiquette

Skill Description

Trick-or-treating etiquette involves understanding the social rules and behaviors required to participate in Halloween trick-or-treating. The skill focuses on recognizing when to say 'trick or treat', how to say 'thank you', and noticing when to move on to the next house.

Social Cues to Watch For

When trick-or-treating, children should look for smiling faces or welcoming gestures, such as waving hands, from people at the door. Adults standing back from the door might indicate a signal for you to take candy from a bowl on your own. It's also important to recognize a closed door or absence of porch lights as cues that a house may not be participating.

Common Misunderstandings

- Thinking they can take more than one piece of candy when the bowl is offered without being told explicitly.
- Misinterpreting when someone isn't smiling as not wanting them to be there, rather than just an adult being busy or distracted.
- Believing that all houses will have candy or forgetting to look for signs that indicate participation, like a porch light being on.

Practice Scenarios

1. Approaching a house with a lit porch light and waiting for the homeowner to open the door before saying 'trick or treat'.
2. A friendly-looking person with a bowl of candy smiles and gestures for you to take one piece.
3. Coming to a house with a dark porch light and understanding it means you skip it and go to the next house.
4. After receiving candy, the child notices the homeowner smiling and says 'thank you' before leaving.
5. Encountering a busy parent who may not directly speak to the child but still waves as a signal to take candy from the bowl.