



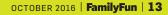
OUR ULTIMATE HALLOWEEN COUNTDOWN!



Should the most **spooktacular** day of the year be limited to a mere 24 hours? No way! So we worked a little **magic** to create the biggest, **creepy-crawliest celebration** ever—and it lasts all month long! On these 18 pages, you'll find a **weekend-by-weekend guide** packed with **crafts**, **treats**, and **costumes** you can conjure with your boo crew including a **pre-trick-or-treating party** to die for. Whether you decide to do a lot or a little, your family is sure to have a wicked good time!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANA GALLAGHER CRAFTS AND RECIPES BY KIMBERLY STONEY ILLUSTRATIONS BY HISASHI OKAWA

COSTUMES BY BLAKE RAMSEY • PROP STYLING BY JERRIE-JOY FOOD STYLING BY ROSCOE BETSILL • WARDROBE STYLING BY SARAH CONROY











OCT. 1-2: HOUSE HAUNTING

Kick off October by decorating inside and out! This way, you and the kids will have plenty of time to enjoy the creepy-cool ambience. Remember, there's no need to do all seven projects. Just choose your faves! Bonus: You can save most of them for next year too!



SURPRISE-A-DAY CALENDAR

Spider rings! Ghost erasers! They'll love getting a Halloween-y prize each morning.

YOU'LL NEED
12 x 14-inch shipping box
Craft knife
Thirty 3-oz. paper cups
Hot glue
Candy or treats
20 x 30-inch piece of black foam core
Double-stick tape
Yellow tissue or vellum paper

WHAT TO DO

1. Cut out one broad side of the box, leaving the side edges intact. Trim edges to 2¼ inches high all around.

2. Hot-glue the cups in 6 five-cup rows inside the box. Punch a hole through the back of the box (you'll use it to hang the house later). Fill cups with treats.

3. Trace the house template (find it at familyfunmag.com/printables) onto foam core; cut out.

4. Outline the back of each window with double-stick tape. Spread the paper flat onto a clean surface, then press the house onto it, tape-side down. Flip it over; press to secure, and trim excess. Gently draw bat silhouettes on the top windows.

5. With the house faceup, write numbers 1 to 30 on the windows.

6. Dot hot glue onto the corners of the box; fit the house on top so the windows align with the cups. Add glue along the seams.



ICK YOUK TUMPKINS. It's not too soon to head to the patch to search for pumpkins that ripen early, like grayish Blue Moons, chalky White Ghosts, classic orange Atlantic Giants—and especially, long-lasting, warty gourds. To keep them fresh until you're ready to carve—best done a few days before Halloween—avoid moisture, says Adam Samolewski, a pumpkin farmer at Greenland Family Farms in Cutchogue, NY. Store your prizes off the dirt and bring them inside if rain is in the forecast. *—Lela Nargi*

DOOR, SWARMED!

Passersby will be dying for a closer look...

YOU'LL NEED Drop cloth

 Acrylic spray paint
 Plastic toys
 Gift wrap
 Thumbtacks
 Heavy-duty scissors
 Plastic hardware cloth (find it in the gardening department)
 Parchment

paper E6000 glue

□ 20-lb. fishing line







WHAT TO DO

1. On a protected surface, spray the tops of the toys with 2 to 3 light coats of paint, letting dry in between. (Don't paint the undersides.)

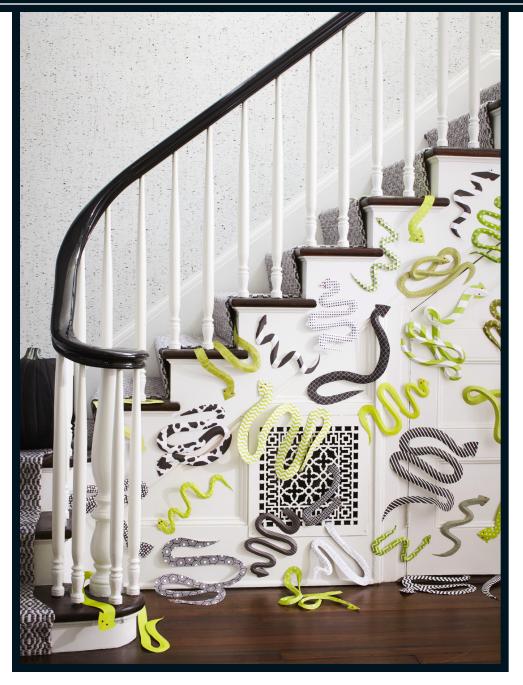
2. While they're drying, use old gift wrap to make the swarm template: Tack it to your door, and draw on your desired shape (it can be any size); remove and cut out. Use this template to cut the hardware cloth.

3. Cover your work surface with parchment paper, then place the hardware cloth on top.

4. Have the kids arrange the toys on the cloth, largest ones first. Glue them down; let dry overnight.

5. To hang, loop 8 to 10 lengths of fishing line through the top of the cloth, spaced about 3 inches apart (depending on size). Use thumbtacks to secure the loops to the door.







These are ssssssso easy the kids will want to snake-ify every room.

YOU'LL NEED □ 12 x 12-inch

scrapbook paper Pointy object like a blunt pencil or ballpoint pen

Adhesive jewels Removable mounting

adhesive

WHAT TO DO

1. Place the paper facedown on a padded surface (like a folded newspaper).

2. Use the pointy object to press a long, curvy line into the paper from one end to the other.

3. Cut out the snake, leaving about 1/2 inch on either side of the line; taper one end for the tail and cut a wide triangle on the other for the head.

4. Flip the paper over and pinch along the scored line; the snake will start to curve.

5. Add adhesive red jewels for eyes.

6. Attach snakes to the wall with removable adhesive.

B



SPECIAL DELIVERY Decorating outside? Don't forget your

mailbox! Wrap it in faux cobwebs, stick on a spider, and you're done! Does your whole block get in the spirit? Then sneak over to the neighbors' for a quick trick. You'll have the whole street looking spooky in no time—and it makes a harmless prank for Mischief Night too (see page 30). –Julie Winterbottom



BAT MOBILES

Suspend these over the dining table, in your kids' rooms-anywhere in need of a little flutter overhead.

YOU'LL NEED

- □ Three 14-inch wood embroidery hoops
- □ Black acrylic paint
- □ Heavy-duty black thread Black cardstock
- Double-sided tacky tape (we used Aleene's)
- □ Removable adhesive hooks (optional)

WHAT TO DO

1. Set aside the outer rings of the hoops. Paint the inner rings black; let dry.

2. Interlock the rings into a globe; secure with thread.

3. Following our template at familvfunmag.com/ printables, cut out six pairs of $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch single bat wings and 14 pairs of 3-inch single wings from cardstock.

4. To make one complete bat: Add tape to the straight edges of a pair of wings. Stick one to the outside of a hoop and the other to the inside. Place 3 to 4 bats on each spoke.

5. Hang from a light fixture or suspend from the ceiling with thread and hooks.





SPIDER NEST LANTERNS

Cast an eerie glow, anywhere.

YOU'LL NEED

- 🗆 Two 1-liter soda bottles
- Craft knife
- Clear packing tape
- Cheesecloth
- □ Cotton string
- □ Plastic spiders
- Batteryoperated tea lights

WHAT TO DO 1. Cut the spout off each bottle and make the hole 1¾ inches wide (an adult's job). Cut them in half and discard bottoms.

2. Cut a vertical slit into the side of one bottle, then slip it onto the other; tape the globe together.

3. Cut the cheesecloth into a 20-inch circle. Place the globe in the center, then pull the edges up and over, tucking them into the opening.

4. Wrap the globe with string, and attach spiders. 5. Pop in the light.



Don't forget the bathroom! Draw squiggly octopus arms on the back of black contact paper; cut them out. Punch holes along one side, then peel off the backing and stick to the clean, dry tank.



\$2.5 BILLION: The estimated amount Americans spent on costumes last year.

Reminder! All our templates are at familyfunmag.com/printables.

OCT. 8-9: COSTUME WORKSHOP

If you're planning to DIY your family's costumes, now's the time! We've got easy ideas for kids, siblings, grown-ups, and groups that mix ready-to-wear with easy-to-craft extras—and none take more than an afternoon to make. We can't wait to see your twists on these punny critters: Post 'em on Instagram using #FamilyFunBoo!

THE RAT PACK

WEAR Gray suits and white shirts MAKE Ears and a nose

WHAT TO DO

1. Trace the ear and nose templates onto **pink** and **gray felt**; cut out.

2. For the nose: Roll the gray felt into a cone, hot-glue closed (an adult's job). Glue a black pom-pom to the tip and use an embroidery needle to thread on three 6-inch lengths of white waxed twine to create whiskers. Glue the nose to the bridge of a pair of sunglasses.

3. For the ears: Glue the pink and gray pieces together as shown, then hot-glue them to the sides of a **fedora**.

P.S. These guys also have a little cheese! Find him on page 33.



5 TOOLS YOU'LL NEED They'll come in handy when you're costuming.



costumes continued on page 20

FEDERATION

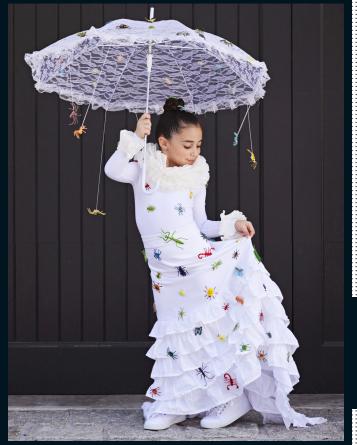
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STATIST









BAT BOY

WEAR Baseball jersey, socks, and sneaks

MAKE Ears, wings, and pants

WHAT TO DO

1. Trace the ear templates onto **felt**. Hot-glue to a hat (an adult's job).

2. If desired, print the Transylvania Bats template onto transfer paper; iron it to the jersey as instructed (an adult's job).

3. For each wing: Measure your child's sleeve from armpit to cuff. Cut a 2-footlong piece of **fabric** to the arm length. Fold the fabric in half widthwise and pin. Trace the wing template onto the fabric; cut out through both layers. Glue or pin the folded edge to the sleeve; let dry.

4. Paint stripes onto sweatpants; let dry.

BUSY BEE

WEAR Black blazer, striped shirt, and jeans **MAKE** Antennae and wings

WHAT TO DO

1. Make the antennae: For each, twist together three black pipe cleaners and one yellow pipe cleaner. Wrap one end around a headband and glue a pompom onto the other end; let dry.

2. Make the wings: Cut out four 3 x 3-foot pieces of **tulle**: laver them on top of each other. Fold the stack accordion-style; secure at the middle with **clear tape**. Trim into a wing shape. Pin to the blazer.

+ Flower Child

Cut a 1¹/₂-inch-wide **yellow ribbon** to your child's collar size, plus several inches. Fold it in half lengthwise, iron to crease the center, then open. Cut out 12 pink felt petals (about 5 inches long) and glue them to the ribbon. Place bottoms at the crease and stagger in alternating directions (one up, one down). Once dry, fold lengthwise and tie on over a green dress and tights.

CAT BURGLAR

WEAR Striped shirt and black pants MAKE Ears, nose, and a tail

WHAT TO DO

1. Trace the ear templates onto felt and cut out. Glue together as shown, then glue to the top of a **black knit cap**.

2. For whiskers: Fold two white pipe cleaners in half (trim if desired), glue them to the nose of a **black mask**, then glue a **pink pom-pom** on top. 3. Pin a marabou boa tail to the pants.

+ Bag of Jewels

Hot-glue jewels to a dog shirt and leash.

LADY BUG

WEAR White shirt and white tights MAKE Ruffled skirt, collar, cuffs, and bug parasol

WHAT TO DO

1. Fold a twin-size ruffled bedskirt in half widthwise. Wrap it around your child's waist, folded edge at the top. Fold again as needed for length, then **pin** along the fold. Remove skirt and hot-glue plastic bugs all over. To wear: Gather the skirt in the back and pin closed.

2. For the collar and cuffs: Cut three lengths of $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide **white ribbon** sized to your child's collar and wrists, plus a few inches. Iron lengthwise to crease, then open. Cut out the centers of 40 coffee filters; fold each in half twice. Lay vour long ribbon flat. Glue about 6 folded filters along the center line with the ruffles at the top. Repeat, staggering slightly, for a second row. Repeat along the bottom edge. Do the same for the cuffs using a single layer of 3 filters on each side. Let dry. 3. Glue bugs onto a white parasol and

string spiders along the edges.

BUYING VS. DIY'ING when you're a Halloween-craft junkie, making your kid's costume is a big deal. But at a certain point your kiddo will want to run the show, says parenting expert Michele Borba, Ed.D. Tip the balance back to fun by asking your child what he cares about: Channeling his hero? Joining a group dress-up effort with friends? Whatever it is, realizing his vision might mean opting for ready-made. And that's okay! Everyone wins when he wears what'll make him most happy. -L.N.

NUMBER ONE COSTUME of



all time: a princess

BE A CHAMPION FOR CHANGE!

Has your school put a halt on Halloween celebrations? An appeal to your child's principal might help loosen up the rules, says Heather Shumaker, author of It's Ok to Go Up the Slide. Her top negotiating tips:

FIND ALLIES

Do other families share your sentiments? Bring up the idea at a PTA meeting and conduct an informal e-mail poll, then band together to strategize.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Compile a list of options that have worked for other local schools—like no masks, no weapons.

MAKE YOUR APPROACH

Respectfully present your suggestions, volunteering to take on the work and to field any complaints that may arise.

BE FLEXIBLE

If your principal holds firm, suggest an afterschool alternative. like a parade. Still no? Then try again next year! -Lela Nargi





OCT. 15-16: CLASS-PARTY PREP

Trust us, you do not want to be running to every store in town the weekend before the 31st, scrounging for supplies. Instead, pick a couple of these ideas, get stocked up, and spend an afternoon with the kids this weekend testing and tasting!

BARK WITH A BITE

This treat comes together fast: Melt a package of **candy melts** according to package directions, then spread onto parchment paper. Press in various **candies**; let cool. Break to serve. One package makes about nine servings.

PLANNING A CLASS PARTY?

Organize your volunteers with signup .com, and get even more ideas at signup.com/ classparty!

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GLOW BUGS

A quick craft perfect for a group

1. Before the party: Print a bug template for each child onto cardstock (get all our templates at familyfunmag .com/printables); trim as indicated. Cut 5 x 1³/₄-inch strips of cardstock in the same colors. Place a bug design, cardstock strip, and a batteryoperated tea light into a **zip-top bag** for each child.

2. At the party: Have the kids decorate their bugs and assemble the lights. Wrap the strip around the light and secure with **tape**. Then tape on the bug at the seam.



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SAVE TIME! Before the party, package supplies for each student in zip-top bags.













PET ROCKS

Kids will dig giving their spiders real personality!

WHAT TO DO

1. Before the party: Cut a bunch of **pipe cleaners** in half so that there are four pieces for each student. Bring a rock for each child.

2. At the party: Spread out **wax paper** and have the children **paint** the rocks as desired (leave the bottoms unpainted); let dry.

3. While they're drying, the kids can make the legs: Wrap one pipe cleaner around the middle of the other three, and twist in place. Spread them out, and bend each in the middle to make joints.

4. Glue the legs to the bottom of the rock, then glue on googly eyes. Let dry before taking home.



CEREAL BALLS So eye-catching!

INGREDIENTS

□ 3 Tbs. butter, plus extra

- □ 1 (10-oz.) package marshmallows (or 4 cups miniature marshmallows)
- □ 6 cups cereal (like Fruity O's)
- Candy eyes
- Prepared frosting

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over low heat. Add the marshmallows; stir until melted. Remove from heat.

2. Add the cereal and stir until well coated.

3. Use a buttered #12 scoop (½ cup) to portion out balls, then round them with oiled hands. Place on parchment or wax paper to set.

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4. Glue on candy eyes with frosting.

CYCLOPS SKEWERS

Halloween can be healthy too! Thread segments of fruit (we used pineapple, kiwi, watermelon, strawberries, and clementines) onto 4-inch bamboo skewers; push on a melon ball last. Press in mini chocolate chip pupils and carrot strip antennae.







OCT. 22-23: PUMPKIN TIME!

While it's still a bit early to carve *all* your pumpkins for the big night, you don't have to wait to get those gourds glowing! We've got four nifty light-up tricks, no candles required. BTW, you can still turn these into jack-o'-lanterns later—spin 'em around for a blank slate, or carve along the designs for a whole new layer of brilliance.

REAL LOOKERS

WHAT TO DO Empty your pumpkin. Paint it with white acrylic; let dry. Use permanent marker to draw an iris, pupil, and veins onto a press-on closet light. Trace the light onto the pumpkin, carve out the hole, and set the light inside it. (Be sure to hold it from the inside as you turn it on.)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF HARRIS CRAFT STYLING BY ASHLEY PAGE TOTH

pumpkins continued on page 28

30,581! The record for the most jack-o'-lanterns lit at once.



NEO-NEON

WHAT TO DO Empty your pumpkin and paint it with black acrylic; let dry. Draw a guide for your word on paper. Curve 12-gauge armature wire to match it. leaving 3 inches on each end. Bend the ends down and press onto your pumpkin to mark entry and exit points, then drill 1/4-inch holes at each. Press the word into the holes. Place a string of **EL wire** (find it on Amazon) inside. Pull the end almost all the way through one hole, then curve it along the word, securing with fishing line as you go. Push the end back inside. Use superglue to secure.

SPRAY CHIC

WHAT TO DO Paint the pumpkin white; let dry. Create a design with **painter's tape**, pressing firmly at the edges. Spray on two to three coats of glow-in-the-dark spray paint. Remove tape; let dry.

GLO-SAIC

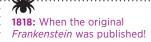
WHAT TO DO Adhere strips of glow-in-the-dark duct tape to parchment paper. Draw 1-inch-tall X's along the length of the tape, spaced 1 inch apart; cut out to get hexagons (about 80 total). Stick them to the pumpkin as shown, starting in the middle.





A SUPER SNACK! Took the trouble to clean the seeds? Make it worth the effort by upgrading your roasting recipes with these ideas from Jana Erwin of Cherryteacakes.com. Just mix them with 2 cups of rinsed, dried pumpkin seeds and 2 Tbs. melted butter and roast at 300°F for 30 minutes until toasted.







OCT. 29-30: THRILLS & CHILLS!

Look at you—you've got your costumes in order, your class party figured out, and your pumpkins a-glowing. So cozy up together and get lost in some of our favorite spooky stories.



TELL TALES

From old classics to new yarns, Julie Winterbottom, author of the new book *Frightlopedia* (Workman, \$10), gives you the lowdown on the best books to help your kiddo gear up for the 31st.

FRIGHT CLUB by Ethan Long

The exclusive Fright Club is for monsters only, so when a bunny tries to join, they shoo her away. Then, to their surprise, they discover that cute critters can cause major terror. Filled with hilarious illustrations and sly jokes! *Ages 3-6, Bloomsbury;* \$17

SCARE METER: 😨

GOODNIGHT GOON by Michael Rex

In this clever parody of the children's classic *Goodnight Moon*, a young werewolf bids good night to the claws and the jaws, the moans and bones, and the big green goon that inhabit his cold, gray tomb. *Ages 3-8, Putnam; \$7* **SCARE METER:**

тоок

by Mary Downing Hahn Soon after the Anderson family

moves into an old farmhouse in West Virginia, their 7-yearold daughter goes missing. Was she taken by a local witch? *Ages 10-12, Clarion; \$17*

SCARE METER: 🍄 🍄 🍄

GHOSTS

by Raina Telgemeier Cat's family moves to the foggy coast of Northern California so her sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis, can breathe the sea air. But one thing the family doesn't expect: Their new town is full of the paranormal. *Ages 8-12, Scholastic; \$11* SCARE METER: \clubsuit

TEN TIMID GHOSTS by Jennifer O'Connell

One by one, a witch evicts the shy spirits that live in her new house by unleashing a series of scare tactics. Kids can count down from ten to one as each ghost flies away—and they'll love the surprise ending. *Ages 4-8, Scholastic; \$4*

SCARE METER: 🍄

STREAM A SCREAM Three scary-but not too scary-

not too scary picks for the whole family



ROOM ON THE BROOM A witch and her friends fight off a dragon. Ages 3 and up (rated G), hulu.com SCARE METER: \$



THE WITCHES Spine-tingles and twisted humor abound in this Roald Dahl adaptation. Ages 9 and up (rated PG), amazon.com

SCARE METER: 🍄 🍄 🛠



IE WINTERBOTTOM

MONSTER HOUSE Three kids discover that their neighbor's home is alive! Ages 10 and up (rated PG), iTunes SCARE METER: ?????

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MAKE SOME MISCHIEF October 30 is "Mischief Night" in many towns. Let your little ones in on the fun by playing a good-humored trick on a friendly neighbor or family member. One idea: Stuff a pair of gloves with newspaper and poke them into the lawn so it looks like a corpse is emerging. Ooooh!

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OCT. 31: LET'S TRICK OR TREAT!

Invite a few friends over for an easy—and tasty— Halloween feast before the kids head out. They'll be fueled up and ready to run, run, run!

THE BIG NIGHT



SERVE UP A MEAL that kids will love so there's a *chance* they won't go overboard on the candy this year. On the menu:

PASTA PIE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (16 oz.) package rigatoni
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 cup grated Parmesan, divided
- 2 (24 oz.) jars pasta sauce
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 to 3 mozzarella cheese sticks, sliced into ¼-inch rounds **Black olives**

1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain. Mix in 1 Tbs. olive oil and let cool.

2. While the pasta is boiling, brush the inside of a 9-inch springform pan with olive oil. In a separate bowl, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Parmesan with the sauce.

3. Add remaining Parmesan to the rigatoni and toss until the pasta is coated.

4. Tilt the pan against a pot or bowl, then layer the pasta into the pan until it is filled. Adjust as needed so that they stand on their ends, then set the pan on its bottom. Pour on half the sauce, and cover with plastic wrap. Then tap the pan on the counter to work the sauce inside the pasta.

5. Remove wrap, add remaining sauce, and bake for 15 minutes. Remove; top with shredded mozzarella.

6. Bake 15 minutes or until the cheese is golden. Remove, add mozzarella rounds, and put back in for 2 minutes or until they are just barely melted.

7. Slice ends from olives (or punch with a straw). Press olives into the melted cheese. Allow the pie to rest for 10 to 15 minutes, then remove the outer ring and slice to serve.

PEEPER PUNCH

Add $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. water and a **blueberry** into the wells of a cake-pop pan. Freeze. Cover with water, and freeze again. Pair with your favorite punch.

CENTIPEDE BREAD

Place prepared French-bread dough (we used Pillsbury) onto a parchment-covered baking sheet, curving it as you go. Poke **chow mein noodles** into the sides and add **black olive circles** for eyes. Brush with **olive oil**; bake per package instructions.

FRANKEN-DIP

Combine 2 cups shelled **edamame**, 2 tsp. **soy** sauce, 2 tsp. sesame oil, 2 Tbs. neutral oil (like canola), 2 Tbs. rice wine vinegar, ¹/₂ tsp. grated fresh ginger, and 1 garlic clove in a food processor, adding a little water if necessary. Garnish with **black sesame seeds** and serve with blue corn chips, rice crackers, and more.







CUE UP A HALLOWEEN PARTY PLAYLIST "Monster Mash" by Bobby "Boris" Pickett • "Thriller" by Michael Jackson • "The Addams Family" by Vic Mizzy • "The Purple People Eater" by Sheb Wooley • "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker, Jr. • "999 Happy Haunts" by the Happy Haunts • "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" by J.S. Bach









IT'S MAGIC! The smaller the treat bag, the bigger the haul appears!

GIMME SOME CANDY!

They're *baaack!* They've tricked the neighbors, gathered their treats, and paraded those costumes down every block in town. So head to bed happy—you made it the best Halloween yet!





SUGAR. MIGH7 Feed 'em a high-protein snack—like string cheese—quick, says Nicole Silber, R.D., a pediatric nutritionist in New York City. It will help balance their blood sugar, and bring them back down to earth. (Also good: Serve up a balanced meal like the one on page 34 before they dig into the treats.)



WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THAT LOOT?

Readers share how they manage the sweet stash.

My girls each choose 20 pieces to keep, then Mommy and Daddy take a few choice candies. The rest goes to Daddy's work where they descend on it like jackals! -CHRISTY TAYLOR Carmichael, CA

My 6-year-old chooses a few pieces and leaves the rest by her bed for the candy fairy, who swaps it out for a present! -JENNY PRINDIVILLE Salem, OR

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We Switch Witch it all! We have some allergies, so it isn't worth the headache. -ALEXANDRA HOEHL Mount Sinai, NY

It's their choice: My kids can have it all or they can keep ten pieces and turn the rest in for a small toy. They always pick the toy! -AMANDA DEXTER Ontario, NY

l eat it all! -JEAN HERMAN Oklahoma City