



Quaran-themed Halloween family fun night

With the way this year is going, many families may be reconsidering celebrating Halloween as they have in the past. For instance, many children may skip the door-to-door trick-or-treating for safety purposes. Similarly, the neighborhood Boofest party may be wrapped up like a mummy and laid to rest, but that doesn't mean you can't have a Quaran-themed Halloween Fun Night with the family. Here are a few ideas that could lead to one frightfully fun evening.

Pumpkin decorating. Make this a fun experience whether you use real pumpkins or a coloring sheet with a pumpkin on it. Depending on the age and ability of your family members, you can choose to carve or just color the most original design you can conjure. When decorating paper pumpkins, feel free to use craft supplies and glue to really beckon your creative juices. Use criteria that makes everyone a winner. Perhaps you give prizes or candy to the spookiest pumpkin, or silliest, or most original, most colorful, and the list goes on. If your children are older, perhaps you provide a theme such as favorite movie title or actress, sports pumpkin, off-season (so making a snowman using pumpkins).

Lantern making. Using paper lunch bags, have kids cut fun shapes or designs into them. Place sand or small rocks in the bottom of the bag and one battery-operated tea light or candle in the base.

Dress the part. Require each member of the family to wear a costume to dinner. Each member should then introduce themselves to the other members. Feel free to stay in character. After all, it is only one time of year that it is acceptable to be someone else, so enjoy it. Perhaps you include an entire theme for the dinner and assign costumes or characters well in advance. For example, your entire family could dress as the Addams Family with each of your family members taking a different role.

Costume report. Similar to a book report, have your children provide information about the character or animal they choose to emulate on Halloween. Help them find fun facts about their particular costume, including why they chose it, and allow them to present the information as a start to the Halloween fun. This not only helps with early research skills, but also strengthens their oral communication skills.

Werewolf Hunt. The rules are similar to what we all know as hide-and-seek with one major change. Instead of having only one person searching for all of the other hiding children, this game reverses the hidiers and seekers, so to speak. In Werewolf Hunt, one "werewolf" hides, and the rest of the players search for him or her. Once they spot the werewolf, the seekers yell, "Werewolf!" as loud as they can. Then they attempt to run back to base without getting tagged by the werewolf. Either the tagged player can replace the werewolf or can join the werewolf, increasing the likelihood of more players being tagged the next round. While you can play this game inside, it may be more exciting to play outdoors.

Scavenger hunt. The rules of this scavenger hunt are as follows: Each family will work as a team to find all of the items identified below in your county. As a family, you will need to decide if you need to find all the items in order. Regardless of what you choose, have fun. Feel free to add numbers before each item to make it more challenging (i.e., three bats). Each family needs to find a bat, a real carved jack-o'-lantern, a spider in a web, a tombstone, a witch on a broom, a black cat, a skeleton, a caldron, a mummy, a casket, candy corn, and a bail of straw.

Source: David Weisenhorn, Ph.D., Senior Specialist for Parenting and Child Development

Copyright © 2020 for materials developed by University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. This publication may be reproduced in portions or its entirety for educational or nonprofit purposes only. Permitted users shall give credit to the author(s) and include this copyright notice.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.