

## Understanding Classmates at a Halloween Party



Halloween is coming. My class is planning a Halloween party. On Halloween, classmates, friends, and other kids may do things that they don't usually do. Or, they may say things that they don't usually say. Understanding why this happens can sometimes make a party more comfortable and fun.

Excitement is one of the biggest reasons why kids at a party may do or say things that they don't often do or say. Many teachers ask parents to help with a class party because they know that the students will be very excited.



Many kids wear costumes on Halloween. That's Jessica, Jared, and Taylor in the photo on the left. Jessica and Taylor are in witch costumes, and Jared is wearing a costume that makes him look like a skeleton. On Halloween, costumes sometimes change what kids say and do.



Witches and walking skeletons are fictional. People read about them in a book or see them in a movie. That's where kids learn what witches and skeletons do. Usually, a kid who dresses up as a witch or a skeleton thinks it might be fun to act and talk like one, too. That's why Jessica, Jared, and Taylor are pretending to be frightening. They will probably be nice again, soon, when doing scary things becomes boring.



Some costumes have masks or use face paint. This can make it difficult for others to figure out who is wearing the costume. Derek thinks it's fun to look and act ridiculous like a clown. Masks and face paint can sometimes be a little uncomfortable. Many kids are happy when it is time to take off a mask or wash their face.





Teachers and parents may bring games to a party. Usually, these are not electronic games. With party games, kids may have to try to do something that they have never done before. They may feel uncomfortable or nervous.

Excited and nervous kids may say something *before* thinking about whether it is a good thing to say. Or, they may do something and *then* decide it was a bad idea. Their classmates may feel uneasy around them.



Adults are there to help all kids. They can help kids who are too excited to stay in good control, and their classmates who feel uncomfortable around them.



A Halloween party is exciting for many kids because of the costumes, games, and treats. When kids are excited and a little nervous they may laugh, wiggle, giggle and move faster than usual. That's why parties can make kids *tired*, too.

Tired kids may also feel irritable or silly. When someone feels irritable, things that are not usually a problem may seem like a problem. And, things that are not *that* funny often seem very funny to tired kids who are feeling goofy and silly.



Sometimes adults wear costumes, too, but they are always there to help. They can calm kids who are too excited or tired, or help kids find a quiet place to rest.

Understanding what makes kids excited, and who is there to help, can help to make a party more comfortable and fun.