Five Easy Homemade Child Halloween Costumes on a Budget

By Jessica Holscher

Halloween is a fun time of year, but with all the decorations, candy and costumes, it can become quite expensive. The costumes in stores are costly and not always original. If you have been thinking about making your child a unique costume but are worried about the difficulty and time, then check out these five easy Halloween costume ideas that can be made at the last minute. These costumes are easy to make and won’t break your budget.

**A Pile of Leaves**

A pile of leaves is an iconic symbol of the autumn season: from jumping into a pile of leaves to stomping on crunchy leaves. Harness that autumn joy of bright red and orange leaves with a unique and creative pile of leaves costume. It is easy to make, and the materials are inexpensive.

1. Use a basic outfit as the base of the costume. A long sleeve tee and leggings, sweatpants or yoga pants in orange, red, brown or yellow would be perfect.
2. Buy a few meters of different red, orange, brown and yellow material. If you are on a really tight budget, old bed sheets or painted newspaper would work as well.
3. Glue or sew the leaves to the shirt and pants. Make sure to cover every inch with leaves to really give it the right look.
4. For an added touch, attach the leaves to a hat for your child as well.

**A Haunted House**

Haunted houses are a common sight during Halloween. They cause delight and fright to both children and adults. With this simple costume, you can turn your child into a haunted house at minimal cost. This costume can be very unique because you and your child can decorate it any way you want.

1. Use a black top and pants for your child to wear underneath their costume.
2. Get a box that will fit over your child, and use paint or paper to make it the color you want for your haunted house.
3. Make sure to put some straps on the top of the box to rest on your child’s shoulders to hold up the box.
4. Cut out doors and windows for the house.
5. Decorate the haunted house how you want: creepy shutters, spooky eyes, pumpkins, black cats, etc. You can easily use construction paper, foam sheets, felt or even stickers to decorate the house.

**A Basket of Dirty Clothes**

Although it is not associated with Halloween or autumn, a basket of dirty clothes can be a pretty unique and funny costume. Depending on the materials you have, you can make a basket of dirty clothes, towels or even socks. It is easy to make and will not cost you much money.

1. Use an old clothes basket or buy a new inexpensive one, and cut out the bottom. Make sure it can easily fit around your child.
2. Attach shoulder straps to hold up the basket.
3. Have your child wear a pair of pajamas or sweat pants/shirt under the costume.
4. Sew clothes you no longer want to your child’s pajamas or sweat pants/shirt.
5. Glue some of the clothes to the basket as well, so it looks like they are hanging out over the top.

**Bee and Flowers**

Spring seems so far away during the Halloween season, so bring it back in your child’s costume. A bee and flowers can be a cute and unique costume. It is simple to make and will not cost you much time or money.

1. Use a pair of black pants and a yellow shirt for your child to wear as the base of the costume.
2. Make some antennae from a headband, pipe cleaners and Styrofoam balls (used for floral arrangements). Simply glue the balls to the pipe cleaners, and glue the pipe cleaners to the headband.
3. For wings, shape wire into wings and cover them with sheer fabric.
4. Glue or sew the wings to the shirt. You can also add elastic arm straps instead of attaching the wings to the shirt.
5. For flowers, sew or glue fake flowers to the costume. There are many inexpensive stores that sell fake flowers, so try to find the best deal.

**A Bag of Candy**

A child with a bag full of candy is the ultimate sign of Halloween. Children love trick or treating for candy. Turn your child into a bag of candy in just a few simple steps. This costume is easy to make and can be made without spending much money.

1. Depending on your child’s age, you might be able to use an old pillow case. If your child is older, you may have to make a larger bag using fabric from a fabric store or an old sheet. Make sure to leave the bottom open for their legs and feet.
2. Decorate the bag with whatever you want: pumpkin, witch, black cat, etc. Felt would work great, and you can either glue or sew it to the bag.
3. Sew two bag handles onto the bag for your child to use as shoulder straps to hold up the bag.
4. Either glue old, cleaned candy wrappers to your child’s shirt or make fake candy from poster board, craft foam sheets or felt.

Making these unique costumes can be inexpensive and simple. You can even have your child help you design them, giving them a fun activity for Halloween. Rather than buying a pre-made costume for your child, make your own. Making a costume with your child can be a rewarding and fun Halloween experience.