

Safe Toys

The beginning of the holiday season inevitably means the beginning of the toy buying season. In fact, more than 50% of toys are bought between September and December alone. Although the majority of toys are safe, they can become dangerous if misused or if they fall into the hands of children who are too young to play with them.

“Young children are especially at risk when it comes to toys because they can easily choke on small toys or even small parts,” Heather Paul Ph D executive director of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. Parents should consider whether the toy is appropriate for the child’s age and whether the gift requires protective gear accessories such as helmets and knee pads.

Each year more than 121,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in hospital ER rooms for toy related injuries. The Child Safety Protection Act, a federal toy labeling law, requires manufacturers to place warning labels on toys that pose a choking hazard to young children. When selecting a toy for your child, avoid the following;

- Toys with small removable parts. The small parts are hazardous and can pose a choking hazard to children under age 3.
- Toys with sharp points or edges. Children may unintentionally cut themselves or another person.
- Propelled toy darts and other projectiles. Propelled toys can cause cuts or serious eye injuries.
- Toys with strings, straps or cords longer than seven inches. Long strings and cords could wrap around a child’s neck and unintentionally strangle him or her.
- Electrical toys. Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Avoid toys with a heating element, batteries or electrical plugs for children under age 8
- Toys painted with lead paint. Exposure to lead can result in lead poisoning, causing serious damage to a child’s brain, kidney and nervous system.
- Toy cap guns. Paper roll, strip or ring caps can be ignited by the slightest friction and cause serious burns.

Courtesy
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