



Holiday Toy Safety Guide

Reduce Choking Risk

- Read and follow age and safety labels.
- Toys labeled for children 3 years and older should be kept away from children under age 3. These toys may have small parts and could cause choking if placed in the mouth.
- Keep un-inflated balloons and broken balloon pieces away from children.
- Small, rounded and oval objects (like balls and marbles) can easily fit into a child's mouth and throat. These pose a choking hazard.

Reduce Strangulation Risk

- Crib toys with strings, cords, ribbons, etc. present a strangulation hazard when babies are just starting to push on their hands and knees, usually by about 5 months of age.
- Remove all crib toys which are strung across a crib or playpen when babies begin to push up on their hands and knees or are 5 months of age, whichever occurs first.

General Toy Safety

- Before shopping for toys, consider the child's age, interests and skill level.
- Read and follow instructions for assembly and use of toys.
- Always remove and discard all packaging from a toy before giving it to a baby or small child.
- Regularly check toys for damage that may have created sharp edges or loose small parts. Damaged or dangerous toys should be repaired or thrown away immediately.
- Keep toys intended for older children away from younger children.
- Supervise children when they play and set good examples for safe play.
- Store toys safely. Teach children to put toys away so they are not tripping hazards.
- Toys should be constructed to withstand the uses of children in the age range for which the toy is appropriate.
- Consumer Product Safety Commission has safety regulations for toys.
Sign-up and receive product recalls: www.cpsc.gov



Finding Suitable Toys for Children of All Ages

0 to 1

Newborns to 1 year olds explore with their hands, mouths and eyes, and enjoy toys they can touch or squeeze.

Suggestions:

Crib gyms
Floor activity centers
Activity quilts
Squeaky toys
Soft dolls or stuffed animals

1 to 3

One to 3 year olds climb, jump, walk, throw and play rough-and-tumble games.

Suggestions:

Soft blocks
Large blocks
Push and pull toys
Pounding and shaping toys
Books

3 to 5

Three to five year olds like to experiment with imaginary situations and have toys that are close companions.

Suggestions:

Non-toxic art supplies
Teddy bears or dolls
Outdoor toys (tricycle with helmet)

5 to 9

Five to nine year olds like to be challenged with complex games that teach specific skills and concepts.

Suggestions:

Arts & crafts kits
Puppets
Jump ropes
Non-toxic art supplies
Miniature dolls and action figures

Adapted from Safe Kids Worldwide