



Toy Safety

The holiday season is a great time to educate ourselves about toy safety.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated there were 250,100 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2009 ⁽¹⁾.

- Most injuries involved cuts and bruising to the face and head
- 12 toy-related deaths were reported in children under 15 years of age
- Most toy-related deaths were a result of choking from small toy parts, pool drowning, and riding toy accidents

Before shopping for a toy, you need to consider the child's age and skill level. Here are some important safety tips to remember ⁽²⁾:

- Read toy labels for recommended age
- Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air and can cause eye injury
- Look for labels that say "nontoxic" to avoid poisoning by lead or other toxic material
- Avoid loud toys that could lead to hearing loss

- Make sure toys and parts are larger than your child's mouth to prevent choking
- Avoid buying hobby and chemistry sets for children under 12
- Electric toys should be "UL Approved"
- Avoid toys with cords, strings, loops or ribbons that may cause infants to become entangled

After you have bought safe toys, it is important to teach your child how to use them. Close supervision and playing with your child will help teach them how to play safely while having fun. Some things to keep in mind: ⁽³⁾

- Check toys regularly and discard or repair if broken
- Keep toys clean
- Teach children to put toys away

The Federal Hazardous Substances and Consumer Product Safety Acts have set safety regulations for all toys and manufacturers so that dangerous products are not sold to consumers ⁽¹⁾. For more information on toy safety and tips on holiday safety, please visit the following web-links:

Toy & Holiday Safety Information:

- [CPSC Toy Hazard Recall List](#)
- [Holiday Safety Tips](#)

References:

1. [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#)
2. [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
3. [KidsHealth](#)

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