



Toy Safety

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

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated there were 232,900 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2007 ^(1, 2).

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

Before going shopping for a toy, you need to consider the child's age, skill level, and degree of interest. Here are some important safety tips to remember ⁽³⁾:

- Read toy label for age recommendations
- Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air
- Avoid loud toys to prevent hearing loss
- Avoid toys with small parts that can cause choking or suffocation
- Avoid toys with toxic materials that could cause poisoning (i.e. paints containing lead)

- Avoid buying hobby kits and chemistry sets for children under 12 years of age
- 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. Supervising activity and playing with your child will help teach them how to play safely while having fun. Some things to keep in mind ⁽⁴⁾:

- 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 the consumer ⁽¹⁾. For more information on toy safety, please visit the following web-links:

Toy Safety Information:

- [Toy Safety](#)
- [Choosing Safe Toys](#)
- [CPSC Toy Hazard Recall List](#)
- [2008 Holiday Safety Tips](#)

References:

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

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