

Safe Toys, Safe Kids



Why are we concerned about toy safety?

Emergency rooms treat thousands of children each year for injuries caused by toys. Choking is a very real risk for kids under age 3, because they like to put things in their mouths.

How can you prevent toy injuries?

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission works to ensure that all toys meet safety standards. Check labels to make sure the toy fits the age and skill level of your child.

- **Under 3 years old**
 - ✓ Avoid toys with small parts — they could cause choking
 - ✓ Buy well-made toys with parts that are firmly attached
 - ✓ Don't let young children play with marbles, balls they can put in their mouths, toys with sharp edges, or balloons
- **Ages 3 through 5**
 - ✓ Avoid toys with thin, brittle plastic that might break
 - ✓ Look for art supplies like crayons and paint sets marked with the safety code "ASTM D-4236"
- **Ages 6 through 12**
 - ✓ Make sure bicycles come with helmets that children wear
 - ✓ Teach children to pick up their toys to prevent others from tripping
- **All ages**
 - ✓ Check toys for breaks and hazards; throw out broken ones
 - ✓ Store older children's toys away from younger ones' toys

For more information go to: www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/281.html

Health Whys

A public health message from

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