

# Toy Safety

Every child loves a new toy but how do you know which toy is right for your child? Follow these guidelines to help you choose toys that are safe for your child. We encourage you to share these tips with caregivers and grandparents, so that their homes and gifts are safe for your child, too.



- Choose developmentally appropriate toys. Pay attention to the age range and warning labels on the packaging before purchasing or using them for the first time.
- Teach children how to use the toy safely and properly.
- Dispose of plastic wrap or packaging before giving toy to child.
- Reduce choking risk by making sure parts, pieces or entire toys cannot fit inside of an empty toilet paper tube or choke tube.
- Don't forget to purchase and properly use the safety equipment that is needed in order to use the item, such as safety glasses for toys that shoot objects or a helmet for a scooter.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children out of reach and separate from toys for younger children.
- Teach children to store toys properly after use. Safe storage prevents injuries and falls.
- Routinely inspect toys for damage such as loose, broken or sharp parts. Repair these hazards or dispose of the toy.
- Supervise children while making crafts. Craft kits often contain multiple small pieces which could become hazardous.
- Be very cautious with toys that have magnets or small (button) batteries. Ensure these parts of the toy are secured and not easily removed. Teach children not to put either in their mouth and always supervise them when playing with such items.
- Avoid toys with toxic materials. Look for the letters "ASTM." These products have met the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- Electric toys should be labeled as "UL approved."
- Listen to toys that make loud noises. Be sure the sound will not damage the child's hearing.



**Toys are fun and entertaining, but injuries can happen in an instant. The best way to protect your child is to watch them while they play.**