

PARENT HEALTH BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2018

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: SHOP SMART



December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month. Shop smart this holiday season by keeping these safety tips in mind as you prepare for gift giving.

Toy tips

- Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game. Read the instructions and warning labels to make sure the toy is right for your child.
- Look for the letters ASTM. This designation means the product meets the national safety standards.
- For children younger than age 3, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.

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Closely inspect the toy for damage from shipping or faulty construction. Fix or throw broken parts away.



Battery charging should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children.

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- Bicycles, riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates can increase risk hazards from falls. Helmets and safety gear should be worn properly at all times and given along with the riding toy if the child does not already have proper protective equipment.

Once gifts are opened

- Immediately discard any wrapping or other toy packaging before it becomes dangerous if played with.
- Closely inspect the toy for damage from shipping or faulty construction. Fix or throw broken parts away.
- Before your child plays with the new toy, explain how to use the toy and show them how to use the toy safely.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.

- Supervise your children while playing with toys.
- Battery charging should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent overcharging.

REFERENCES:

- <https://child-familyservices.org/december-is-national-safe-toys-and-gifts-month>
- <https://www.preventblindness.org/safe-toy-checklist>
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Newsroom/News-Releases/2014/Global-System-of-Toy-Safety-Works-to-Keep-Kids-Safe-This-Holiday-Season-Recalls-Down-Port-Seizures-Up>
- https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/toy-safety

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