

TOY SAFETY



[SANFORD CHILDREN'S SAFETY CENTER]

Through the eyes of a child...

I'm just getting to know my toy –
I move it, shake it, taste it.



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KEEPING PLAYTIME SAFE

Play is an important part of a child's day. During the early years, there is a tremendous amount of learning that happens and toys provide children with a means to explore and learn. Through noises, push and pull toys provide children a playground full of learning opportunities. However, toys can also bring unintentional harm to a child if some basic safety tips are overlooked.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD:

- A toy is a new thing to explore.
- I explore the world by using my senses of taste, touch, sight and sounds.
- I have no impulse control when my curiosity urges me to learn and discover.
- When I am playing I don't think safety – I want to "taste, touch, and shake" whatever I see.

POINTS FOR PARENTS TO REMEMBER:

- Keep age – appropriate toys within your children's sight and reach.
- Be mindful about toys that might cause choking and strangulation hazards.
- See toys through the eyes of your child and you will see the potential dangers to prevent unintentional injuries.
- Take time to play – an adult talking, singing, and playing with a child is the most important "toy" a parent can give a child.

SAFE TOY CHECKLIST

- Toy is recommended for child's age.
- Stuffed toys are washable.
- Toys have lead-free paint.
- No sharp edges.
- No hinges to pinch fingers or skin.
- No loose string longer than 6 inches.
- Battery cases on toys secured with screws.
- Check for small loose parts (i.e. wheels on vehicles and eyes on stuffed animals).
- Keep toys picked up to avoid falls.
- No balloons. Balloons are a choking hazard. Keep balloons away from children younger than 8 years old.

SUGGESTED SAFETY PRODUCTS:

- Choking Tester

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