

Keep Safety In Mind When Buying Holiday Toys

For adults, the annual holiday season is filled with thoughts of family, food, and festivities. For kids, it usually means just one thing --- toys!

While toy shopping can be fun, parents should keep safety in mind before making purchases. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates there were 206,500 toy-related injuries resulting in emergency room visits during 2003, 34% of which involved children under age 5. Here are some guidelines parents can follow to ensure their children's safety this holiday season.

- For children under 3, avoid buying toys with small parts, marbles, balls, or games with balls having a diameter of less than 1.75 inches.
- Look for well-made toys with tightly secured eyes, nose, and other parts.
- Refrain from buying toys with long cords or strings.
- Follow the recommended age guidelines that come with each toy.
- Carefully examine each toy even if there is no safety warning on the label.

For more information on toy safety, call the Lansing Area Safety Council (517-394-4614).

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