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# Children's Health: Toy Safety

When purchasing toys for children, it is important to consider several safety factors. Toys should be appealing and interesting to a child, age-appropriate, well-constructed, durable and suited for that particular child's physical, mental and social capabilities.

## Safety Regulations

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission sets mandatory toy safety regulations:

### All Ages

- Electrical toys should have no shock or thermal hazards.
- Toys should not contain toxic materials in or on them.
- Toy paint should not contain traces of lead.
- Art materials used by children under 12 should be non-hazardous.
- Latex toys, games and balloons must contain warning labels regarding the choking and suffocation hazards.

### Ages 3 to 6

- All toys and games with small parts must be labeled to warn of the choking hazards.
- All toys and games with balls less than 1.75 inches diameter must be labeled to warn of choking hazards.
- All toys and games with marbles must be labeled for choking hazards.

### Under Age 8

- Electrically operated toys should not have heating elements.
- No toys should have sharp points or edges.

### Tips for Parents

Parents can take a number of steps to help reduce their child's risk for toy-related injuries:

- Make sure to refer to age and safety labels.
- Keep uninflated balloons and broken balloon pieces away

from children.

- Keep objects that can easily fit into a child's mouth out of reach.
- Read all toy warnings and instructions.
- Consider a child's ability over age when purchasing toys.
- Avoid purchasing toys with sharp or rigid points, spikes, rods and dangerous edges.
- Repair or replace any damaged or defective toys.
- Supervise children's craft projects, as scissors and glue are among the most dangerous products.



## Did you know...?

You can report a dangerous toy. If you think a toy or product is hazardous, contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 800-638-2772 or [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).