



### Toy Safety

#### Fact:

While the government has toy safety standards in place, some toys still do not comply.

Toys can be childhood treasures. A few tips can help you select the right toy, and perhaps prevent injury.\*

### What to Do

- Choose age appropriate toys. For example, toys with small parts are not for children under three, but if an older child still mouths everything, steer clear. Likewise, toys with projectiles are never suitable for children under four, but may be unsuitable even for older children depending on their coordination.
- Choose toys too large to fit through a toilet paper roll, to prevent choking, for children up through age three.
- Choose toys that are not too heavy.
- Choose well-made toys, with reinforced seams, solid paint, and free of small buttons, ribbons and other parts children could yank off and put in their mouths.
- Choose toys that match the child's physical skills. Don't buy a bike that's one size too big to save money next year. The child may not be able to safely control the bigger bike.
- Check out used toys. Toys from relatives or yard sales can be worn and have buttons, ribbons, eyes, beads or other parts that could easily be chewed or snapped off.
- Avoid toys with cords or strings longer than 12 inches to avoid strangulation. Once a child can climb, remove crib gyms and hanging mobiles from his crib. Watch out for older toys. The five-year-old model of a popular play kitchen has a phone attached with a potentially deadly cord, while the latest model uses the safer cordless phone.

\* BabyCenter Medical Advisory Board

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