

Child-Safe Gift Buying Guide

Children are always excited to receive gifts and toys during the holidays. Unfortunately, some toys can pose a safety hazard. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that 110,000 children under 15 years of age are treated in emergency department for toy-related injuries each year. Half of these injuries are among children younger than 5 years of age and could have been prevented. Ensure a safe, happy and exciting holiday season by always keeping these age-appropriate safety guidelines in mind when choosing gifts for your children.

Infant to 3-Years:

- Avoid toys with small removable parts. These can cause a choking hazard
- Remember children under 4 years of age can choke on parts with a diameter of $1 \frac{3}{4}$ of an inch or less
- Look for sturdy construction on potential small parts, such as teddy bears
- Toys with strings, straps, or cords longer than 7 inches are a strangulation hazard for babies. Balloons are also not recommended for children of this age group
- **GIFT IDEAS:**
 - For infants, but soft dolls, stuffed animals without buttons or small attachments, or cloth covered books
 - For ages 1-3 years, books, blocks, shape toys, or balls are recommended (again, remember larger than $1 \frac{3}{4}$ inches)



Ages 4 to 8:

- Do not buy electric toys, they are a potential burn hazard
- **GIFT IDEAS:**
 - Children in this age group are physically active and creative. Good gifts include non-toxic arts and craft supplies, books, musical instruments, and outdoors toys



Ages 8 and Up:

- Electrical trains and battery-operated toys are okay for this group, but...
 - Never allow a child to change the batteries
 - Always check for loose wires

- **GIFT IDEAS:**



- This age group enjoys physical activity, so sports equipment is an appropriate gift. Remember to NEVER give a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller blades/skates, as a gift without providing a helmet and other appropriate protective gear!

All Ages:

- Always read labels for age recommendations
- Always read instructions to show your child how to properly use any new toy
- Never buy propelled toys such as darts
- Never buy toys with lead-based paint
- Never give children toy guns, or pellet, or BB guns as gifts
- Avoid toys that produce loud noises, they can impair a child's hearing
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings, which can lead to suffocation among small children
- Avoid buying toys with sharp point or edges



***Remember that although the holiday season is a time for giving, children must learn to be realistic. Trying to accommodate to all of your child's wishes can cause great stress to you and your bank account! It is okay to tell a child that a certain toy is unsafe for them or too expensive. Let them know that you and Santa Claus will do your best to choose the most suitable gifts for them.

*Information obtained from:
American Academy of Pediatrics, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and
National SAFEKIDS Campaign*