

Toy Safety

The most common injury to children from toys are related to choking.



Toys play an important role in helping children to learn and develop.

Follow these recommendations to make sure toys are safe.

Only give your child toys that are safely designed to avoid the risk of:

- Choking, inhaling or swallowing small objects.
- Crushing parts of the body, eg fingers.
- Cuts from metal blades or plastics.
- Poking out eyes with sharp objects.
- Strangulation from loose cords or wire loops.



The 20 cent piece or Film Canister Test

If any object is smaller in diameter than a 20 cent piece or can fit into a 35mm film canister, then it is capable of choking a child under the age of 3



Hazards Associated with Toys

Be careful when selecting a toy for your child. The following elements can be hazardous:

- Small parts and loose parts
- Fur or hair
- Projectiles, sharp points
- Gaps or holes
- Small removable attachments
- Realistic-looking weapons
- Balloons
- Plastic spheres or beads
- Long strings
- Hinges or links
- Weak stitching
- Poorly ventilated enclosed spaces
- Attached toy box lids
- Small batteries



Be wary of toys that make loud noises, as they can be harmful to hearing – particularly toys which are held against the ear, such as walkie-talkies and toy mobile phones.

Check for ventilation before buying tents, masks, helmets, etc.

Ensure ride-on toys are appropriate to the age of the child and are stable. Toy bikes should have effective brakes which can be applied by the rider.



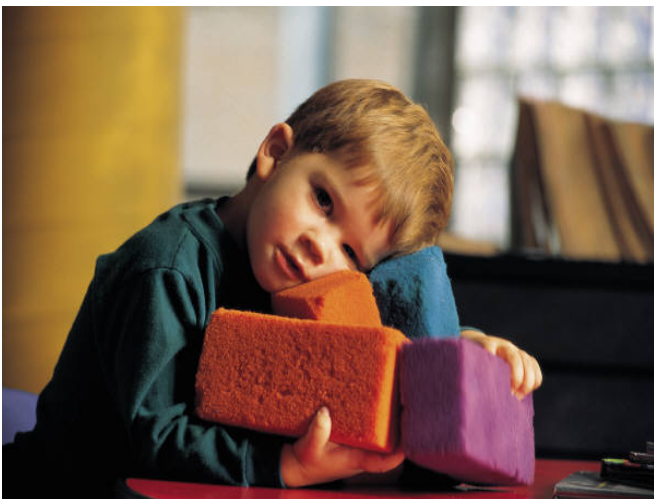
“RULE OF THUMB”

The smaller the child, the bigger the toy

- New toys should be introduced to the child in your presence, so that you can be sure the toy is safe and age appropriate.
- Supervise your child to ensure the toy is being used safely.



Maintaining safe child practices can substantially reduce injury to children.



Safe Practices

Check the toy labelling for the following information:

- Age recommendation.
- Adequate instructions on how to use the toy.
- Information that clearly states the toy is non-toxic and non-flammable, particularly on paints, crayons and glues.

Also:

- If buying a projectile toy, only choose ones that have soft, one-piece darts or non-removable suction caps.
- Check toys that contain magnets to ensure that they have not come loose. Remove loose magnets from the toy box.
- **Do not** store toys in plastic bags.
- Drill holes in the toy box for ventilation.
- Use a toy box lid that is not attached to the toy box or has a locking mechanism.
- Checks toys regularly and discard broken toys immediately.
- Discourage younger children from playing with toys designed for older children.
- If the toy requires safety gear, *Kidsafe NSW* recommends that you buy it at the same time as you buy the toy, eg scooters, rollerblades, skateboards & bikes.



Age Guidelines for Toys



Children Aged 0 to 2

Toys should be washable and non-breakable, with no detachable parts, which could be put in the mouth, nostrils or ears of the child.



- Rattles
- Washable toys
- Push toys
- Pull toys

Children Aged 2 to 3

Look for toys that are easily cleaned and without detachable parts that will promote the child's development:



- Push & pull toys
- 3-wheel scooters or sit-on toys with helmets
- Toy wheelbarrows

Toys and Activities for Artistic Development

- Blackboard & chalk
- Large crayons
- Modelling clay
- Toy musical instruments

Check for small parts and only use non-toxic products.

Toys for Constructive & Creative Play

- Large hollow blocks
- Nestling jars
- Pyramid rings
- Large picture puzzles (3—10 pieces)
- Model trucks and tractors

Look for toys with safe, large parts.

Toys for Dramatic & Imitative Play

- Dolls
- Toy animals
- Doll prams & houses
- Dump trucks
- Simple train sets
- Boats
- Hand puppets

Be aware of small parts such as loose eyes or buttons with toys in this area of development.

Children Aged 4 to 5



- Scooter with safety gear
- Bucket & spade,
- Simple rolling games
- Pedal cars
- Prams
- Balls

Toys and Activities for Artistic Development

- Finger-painting materials
- Large pencils
- Paint sets
- Playdough, plasticine or clay

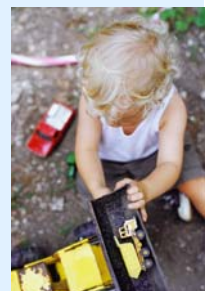
Only use non-toxic products.

Toys for Constructive & Creative Play

- Plastic scissors with rounded edges
- Sand toys
- Medium beads to thread
- Picture puzzles up to 60 pieces
- Building & construction sets
- Toy earthmoving equipment (front-end loaders, dump trucks, bulldozers and graders)

Toys for Dramatic & Imitative Play

- Toy lawn mowers
- House keeping toys
- Small motor cars
- Toy garages & service stations
- Farm sets
- Clothes & toys for dress ups
- Toy telephones
- String puppets



Australian Standards

A set of Australian Standards applies to toy safety. Look for these on labels to assess potential hazards and appropriateness for your child's age and stage:

AS/NZ ISO 8124 Parts 1-7: *Safety of Toys*—deals with small parts, sharp points and edges, flammability of toys, moving parts and toxicity of toys.

AS 1900–1991, *Flotation toys and swimming aids for children*—deals with flotation aids and swimming toys.



NSW Toy Safety Laws

For many years, NSW Fair Trading has targeted dangerous toys. While toys available in the marketplace today are generally much safer than they were in the past, each year Fair Trading detects new products which have the potential to cause injury or even death to young children. Fair Trading can restrict the sale of a number of toys, and may require warning labels to be attached to some toys.

Toy categories requiring special attention include:

- Balloon/blowing kits
- Disappearing inks & liquid squirt toys
- Expanding water novelties
- Flotation toys & swimming aids
- Inflatable toys and novelties
- Knives – certain toys
- Liquid-filled products
- Pop Domes
- Projectile toys

Some products within these categories are banned, but others are approved. If in doubt, contact the NSW Fair Trading:



13 32 20
fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Visit the ACCC Product Safety Recalls Australia website: recalls.gov.au



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