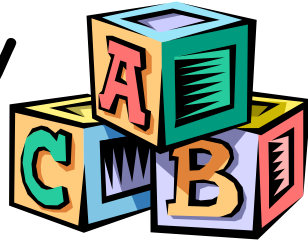


TOY SAFETY



Toys play an important role in helping children to learn and develop. Follow these recommendations to also make sure they are safe.

- 1 out of 6 children in Australia require medical treatment for an injury from a toy.
- The most common injuries are related to choking.

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

- Choking on small objects – inhaling or swallowing them.
- Crushing parts of the body, eg fingers.
- Cuts.
- Poking out eyes with sharp objects.
- Strangulation.

The Film Canister Test

If any object can fit into a 35mm film canister, then it is capable of choking a child under the age of 3.



Safe Practices

- Check that Toy Labelling for the following information:
 - ® Age recommendation.
 - ® Adequate instructions on how to use the toy.
 - ® Information on whether the toy is non-toxic and non-flammable, eg paints, crayons, glues.



- **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.



- Check toys regularly and discard broken toys immediately.
- Discourage younger children from playing with toys designed for older children.

"RULE OF THUMB"
The smaller the child, the bigger the toy


- If the toy requires safety gear, Kidsafe recommends that you buy it at the same time as you buy the toy, eg scooters, rollerblades, skateboards & bikes.

child safety is no accident


- 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.

Possible Toy Hazards

- Be careful. The following items on toys can be hazards that could cause choking, crushed body parts (eg fingers), cuts or strangulation:
 - Small parts and loose parts
 - Fur or hair
 - Projectiles, sharp points
 - Gaps or holes which could trap a child's finger
 - Small removable attachments
 - Realistic-looking weapons
 - Balloons
 - Plastic spheres or beads
 - Long strings
 - Hinges or links
 - Weak stitching
 - Poor ventilation
 - 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.

Australian Standards

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

- AS/NZ ISO 8124.1 – deals with structure of toys such as rattles, small parts, sharp points and edges and hinge-line clearances.
- AS/NZ ISO 8124.2 – deals with flammability of toys.
- AS/NZ ISO 8124.3 – deals with toxicity of toys.
- AS 1900 – deals with flotation aids and swimming toys.

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.



Examples: Rattles, washable toys, push toys and pull toys.

Children Aged 2 & 3

Still look for toys that are easily cleaned and without detachable parts, but will promote the child's development:

Strength & Skills

Examples: Push & pull toys, 3 wheels scooters or sit-on toys with helmets, wheelbarrow.



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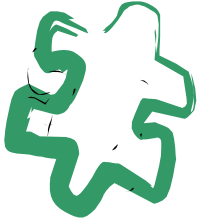
Artistic Development

Examples: Blackboard & chalk, large crayons, modelling clay, toy musical instruments. Check for small parts and only use non-toxic products.



Constructive & Creative Play

Look for toys with safe, large parts.



Examples: Large hollow blocks, nesting jars, pyramid rings, large picture puzzles (3-10 pieces), model trucks and tractors.

Dramatic & Imitative Play

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

Examples: dolls, toy animals, doll prams & houses, dump trucks, simple trains, hand puppets & boats.



Children Aged 4 & 5

Strength & Skills



Examples: Scooter with safety gear, bucket & spade, simple rolling games, pedal cars, prams & balls.

Artistic Development



Examples: Finger-painting materials, large pencils, paint sets, plasticine or clay. Only use non-toxic products.

Constructive & Creative Play

Examples: 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).



Dramatic & Imitative Play

Examples: Toy lawn mowers, house keeping toys, small motor cars, farm sets, clothes & toys for dress ups, toy telephone, string puppets, garages & service stations.



SUPPORTED BY

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