



December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month

The holiday shopping season is here! Now is a good time to focus on buying safe and age appropriate toys. Dangerous toys with high lead content, choking hazards, and poor construction make it more important than ever to take precautions when purchasing toys.

Quick Facts:

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2009:

- more than 170,000 children under the age of 15 were treated at the emergency room for toy-related injuries.
- more than 80,000 of those children were ages 5 and younger, and the majority of those injuries were to the head and face.

Prevent Blindness America, the nation's oldest eye health and safety organization, has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Month. The group encourages everyone, whether they are buying gifts for a charitable giving tree or for their own family or friends, to make decisions based on what is best for the child.

Tips to Prevent Injury:

Prevent Blindness America suggests the following tips to help keep this holiday season safe and bright:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing.

- Make sure the toys your child receives are appropriate for his/her age and developmental level.
- Make recommendations to family members and friends about appropriate gifts for your child.
- Beware of recalled products. Unfortunately, some recalled or banned toys may still be available online.
- Protective gear (such as goggles or arm pads) should be given along with sports equipment gifts.
- A "supervision required" labeled toy must always be used in the presence of an adult.
- Always save the warranties and directions for every toy.
- Repair or discard any damaged toys.
- For younger children, avoid play sets with small magnets and make sure batteries are secured within the toy.
- Do not give toys with small parts to young children. If any part of a toy can fit in a toilet paper roll, the toy is not appropriate for children 3 and under.

For more information on safe toys and gifts, please visit Prevent Blindness America at preventblindness.org or call 1-800-331-2020.