

# Toy Safety Tips

- Only choose toys for kids that are appropriate for their age, skill and interests.
- Avoid toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic that might break easily into little pieces or leave jagged edges.
- Adults should check toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. Damaged or dangerous toys should be thrown away.
- Look for household materials, including crayons and paint sets, marked with the designation 'ASTMD-4236'. This means that the product has been reviewed and if necessary labeled with cautionary information.
- Use mylar balloons instead of latex as kids under age 8 can suffocate on them.
- If you buy a bicycle or skateboard for a child, be sure to buy a helmet too. Be certain that the child wears it correctly.
- Teach children to put toys away when they're finished playing so they don't trip over them or fall on them.

## Special Toys For Special Needs

Toys for children with special needs should be safe, durable, versatile, challenging and engaging. Some toy features to look for depending on your child's needs are:

- Solid construction that supports the body
- Large buttons, levers or handles
- Varying sounds and vibrations
- Amplified or adjustable volume
- Lights and bold contrasting colors
- Easy to activate components

## Newborns to one-year-olds

Explore with their hands, mouths and eyes and enjoy toys they can touch or squeeze: crib gyms • floor activity centers • soft dolls or stuffed animals • squeaky toys • activity quilts

## One to three-year olds

Climb, jump, walk, throw and play rough-and-tumble games: soft blocks • large balls • push and pull toys • pounding and shaping toys • books

## Three to five-year olds

Like to experiment with imaginary situations and have toys that are close companions: non-toxic art supplies • pretend toys, such as play money and telephones • teddy bears or dolls • outdoor toys such as a tricycle with a helmet

## Five to nine-year olds

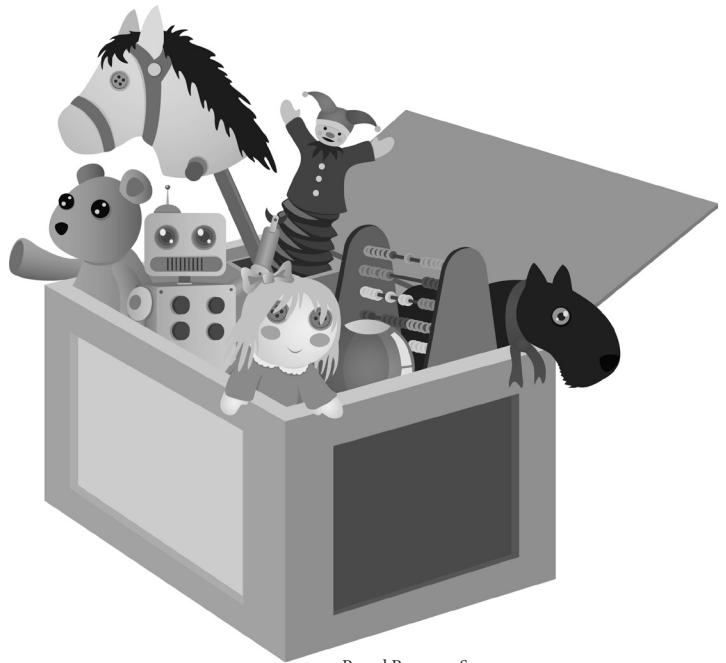
Like to be challenged with complex games that teach specific skills and concepts: art and craft kits • puppets • jump ropes • miniature dolls and action figures

## Nine to fourteen-year olds

Develop lifelong skills and hobbies, and enjoy team sports: handheld electronic games • board games • sports equipment • model kits • musical instruments

## Injury Facts

- The leading cause of toy-related death is toy balls.
- Over 150,000 kids a year visit the emergency room for toy-related injuries.
- 45% of toy-related injuries are to the head and face area.



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