

Toy Safety



Fast Facts

- Over three billion toys/games are sold yearly in the U.S.
- According to Safe Kids Worldwide, over 260,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each year for toy-related injuries.
- More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency rooms for injuries related to biking than any other sport. Riding toys can be especially dangerous. Be sure your child wears the proper safety gear, such as a bike helmet, when riding a bike, scooter or skateboard.
- Common injuries include cuts and bruises on the head and face.
- Go to [Recalls.gov](https://www.recalls.gov) to sign up for recall alerts.
- Avoid motorized scooters. They are a common cause of serious injury for older children.

Read the Label

- Toy manufacturers are required to safety test their toys. The Consumer Product Safety Commission does not test toys unless they have received consumer complaints.
- Follow age recommendations labeled on toys. Many toys labeled “not recommended for children under 3” may contain potential choking hazards.
- Research a toy prior to purchase to make sure it is age appropriate.

For more information about injury prevention and other programs through St. Joseph’s Children’s Wellness and Safety Center: (813) 615-0589
3001 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33607

Toy Inspection and Storage

- If a toy can fit in a toilet paper roll, it’s a choking hazard.
- Check toys frequently for broken or missing pieces, sharp edges and other potential hazards.
- Keep “big kid” toys away from tiny hands. Toys that are safe for older children can be dangerous to little ones.

Safe Toys

- Good quality
- Labeled non-toxic
- Can’t pinch fingers or catch hair
- Have straps, strings or chords less than seven inches



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[StjoesKIDS.org](https://www.stjoeskids.org)



Toy Tips



2 Years and Under

- Encourage: Physical activity, imaginative play, hand manipulation, early reading
- Active manipulation in contrast to battery-operated push button toys

3 to 5 Years

- Encourage balance: Tricycle, scooter or bike (with a helmet)
- Building and creating: Art projects and using fine motor skills
- Level 1–2 books, educational games, musical instruments and outdoor toys
- Limit electronics and DVDs

6 to 12 Years

- Recommended toys include arts and crafts, construction and brain-building toys and sports equipment.
- Avoid toys with heating elements for children under age 8. Use with caution for older kids.
- Florida law requires helmets for children under age 16. Always buy a snug fitting helmet with a new bike, skateboard or scooter.
- Avoid buying a bike they can grow into. Adjust the seat height to ensure a smooth ride.
- Do not purchase a motorized scooter for your child. Fatalities have been reported, especially when helmets and protective gear have not been used.

All Ages

- Avoid trip and falls: Do not leave toys on stairs or in walkways.
- Purchase recommended safety gear.
- Avoid toys that produce loud noises, as this can cause permanent hearing loss.
- Read and follow the instructions, call the manufacturer if you have a question.
- Avoid frustration: Know your child's skill level.
- Avoid motorized riding toys, including ATVs, motorcycles and scooters. Children lack the experience and skill to safely operate these types of vehicles.



Looking for low cost safety products?

Visit The Safety Store on the 3rd floor of the Medical Arts Building at St. Joseph's Hospital or call (813) 554-8510.



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