

December 2012

Safe Toys and Gifts Month



The U.S. [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) (CPSC) gives an easy acronym to help workers keep their kids S.A.F.E. These tips cover toy safety from purchase to play.

S = Supervision:

- Watch young children closely as they play—if you're not playing with them yourselves.
- Teach children how to use their toys safely.
- Teach older children to keep their toys away from younger siblings.
- Inspect kids' toys regularly. Fix broken toys immediately or throw them out.

A = Age appropriate:

- Choose toys that are developmentally appropriate and suit the age, ability, and interest level of your child.
- Read labels on toys or containers to guide you in choosing safe items.

F = Free of inherent hazards:

- Toys for children under the age of 3 should be free of small parts, sharp points and edges, and long cords.
- Look for labels with warnings, such as: "NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE. CONTAINS SMALL PARTS."

E = Equipment:

- Require kids to wear helmets when using bicycles, skateboards, or in-line roller blades. Wear them yourselves when sharing these activities with kids.
- Require kids to wear gloves, wrist, elbow, and knee pads when using skateboards or in-line roller blades.

Fast Facts about children and toys:

- Over 3 billion toys and games are sold every year in the U.S.
- Around 15 children under the age of 14 die from a toy-related incident every year.
- Around 217,000 toy-related injuries are treated in hospital emergency rooms.
- In one recent year, 20 children died from toy-related deaths. In the same year, there were 75,000 toy-related injuries in children under the age of 14.



Worried about giving a gift that has been recalled? Check the latest updates on the CPSC website [here!](#)

This holiday, give a gift that supports professional development for the child care provider caring for your child! In many states, child care providers are required to complete annual training. Sometimes these courses have a cost. A gift of training from [the Child Care Aware Training Academy™](#) is a great way to say thank you while promoting your favorite child care provider's career.

