

Healthy People

Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Happy Holidays from HealthSCOPE Benefits! At this time of year, many people are exchanging gifts with family and friends. While you are making your lists and checking them twice, be sure to consider the safety of the toys and other gifts you give this holiday season. December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month!

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and Prevent Blindness America provide some tips for toy safety:

- Small balls and other toys with small parts should not be given to children younger than age three. Avoid toys with small parts, they can cause choking.
- Scooters, skateboards and in-line skates go fast, and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn properly at all times and they should be sized to fit.
- Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid those that shoot or include parts that fly off. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily.
- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection – “ATSM” means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.
- Do **NOT** give toys with small parts (including magnets and “button” batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If the piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.
- Do **NOT** give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements.
- Do **NOT** give crayons and markers unless they are labeled “nontoxic”.

