

Toy Safety

Part II Age Appropriate Toys and Toys to Avoid



Age-appropriate toys

The following is a list of toys that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends for specific age groups. Use these recommendations when shopping for toys. Keep in mind, these are only guidelines. All toys can be dangerous when they are not used properly or are in poor condition. Parents should continue to watch out for mislabeled toys and always provide proper supervision for young children.

Newborn to 1-year-old baby

Choose brightly-colored, lightweight toys that appeal to your baby's sight, hearing, and touch.

1. Cloth, plastic, or board books with large pictures
2. Large blocks of wood or plastic
3. Pots and pans
4. Rattles
5. Soft, washable animals, dolls, or balls
6. Bright, movable objects that are out of baby's reach
7. Busy boards
8. Floating bath toys
9. Squeeze toys

1 to 2-year-old toddler

Toys for this age group should be safe and be able to withstand a toddler's curious nature.

1. Cloth, plastic, or board books with large pictures
2. Sturdy dolls
3. Kiddy cars
4. Musical tops
5. Nesting blocks
6. Push and pull toys (remember—no long strings)
7. Stacking toys
8. Toy telephones (without cords)

2 to 5-year-old preschooler

Toys for this age group can be creative or imitate the activity of parents and older children.

1. Books (short stories or action stories)
2. Blackboard and chalk
3. Building blocks
4. Crayons, non-toxic finger paints, clay
5. Hammer and bench
6. Housekeeping toys
7. Outdoor toys: sandbox (with a lid), slide, swing, playhouse
8. Transportation toys (tricycles, cars, wagons)
9. Tape or record player

10. Simple puzzles with large pieces
11. Dress-up clothes
12. Tea party utensils

5 to 9-year-old children

Toys for this age group should help your child develop new skills and creativity.

1. Blunt scissors, sewing sets
2. Card games
3. Doctor and nurse kits
4. Hand puppets
5. Balls
6. Bicycles with helmets
7. Crafts
8. Electric trains
9. Paper dolls
10. Jump ropes
11. Roller skates with protective gear
12. Sports equipment
13. Table games

10 to 14-year-old boys and girls

Hobbies and scientific activities are ideal for this age group.

1. Computer games
2. Sewing, knitting, needlework
3. Microscopes/telescopes
4. Table and board games
5. Sports equipment
6. Hobby collections

Toys to avoid

Infants and toddlers should never be given toys with the following:

- Parts that could pull off and/or fit into a child's mouth, nose, or ear
- Exposed wires and parts that get hot
- Lead paint
- Toxic materials
- Breakable parts
- Sharp points or edges
- Glass or thin parts
- Springs, gears, or hinged parts that could pinch tiny fingers or become caught in your child's hair

To check whether a toy is unsafe or to report a toy-related injury, call the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 800/638-2772 or visit their Web site at www.cpsc.gov

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

From your doctor

American Academy
of Pediatrics



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