



'Tis the Season to Give Safe Gifts

December is the month of gift giving, and we want to help our employees buy safe toys and gifts for their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Toy safety can prevent children from being hurt by unsafe toys.

The U.S. [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#) gives an easy acronym to help workers keep their kids **S.A.F.E.** The following 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 elbow and knee pads, wrist guards, and gloves when using skateboards or in-line roller blades.

Why It Matters

- Over 3 billion toys and games are sold every year in the U.S.
- Around 15 children under the age of 14 die from toy-related incidents each 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.