

Toy Safety Tips

Toys make an essential contribution to child development.
To ensure the best experience for our children, keep in mind the following Toy Safety Tips.



When choosing a toy

Always buy toys from trustworthy shops and online outlets. They take care about the toys they sell and will usually accept returns. Rogue traders, however, tend to ignore health and safety needs and may also deal in fake toys. Carefully check toys purchased online, toys given to children as gifts, and toys bought second-hand.

Read all warnings and instructions

Be aware of age and safety recommendations – take them seriously. *Never buy toys that do not have the CE mark displayed on the toy or its packaging.* Although the CE mark is not meant as consumer guidance, it is a commitment from the toy maker that the toy complies with all EU safety rules, which are amongst the strictest in the world.

Choose toys suitable for the child's age, abilities and skill level

Toys that are not meant for a child's specific age group may injure the child. Be sure to follow the age recommendation – particularly the 0 to 3 symbol (see right) and the words 'not suitable for children under 36 months' accompanied by the



Do not buy toys with small detachable parts for children under 3 years of age

As these children tend to put toys in their mouths and they may choke on small parts.



After buying a toy

Follow carefully the instructions for proper toy assembly and use

Keep the instructions and information that are packaged with the toy in a safe place.

Keep an eye on children as they play

Make sure that all toys are played with as intended and are suitable for the age and abilities of the child. With certain toys – such as scooters, roller skates and bikes – helmets and other safety gear should always be worn.

Check toys from time to time

For breakage or wear that could cause injury and affect the health and safety of the child. Remove broken toys immediately.

Remove all packaging

And always keep the instructions. Make sure children do not play with plastic packaging as there could be a risk of suffocation.

Teach your children to put away their toys to avoid accidents

Don't leave toys out on the stairs or on the floor in busy areas of the home.

Always report a safety problem with a toy to the manufacturer or the retailer where you bought it.

Check the EU rapid alert system's website (RAPEX)

<http://ec.europa.eu/rapex>

This gives details of dangerous products taken off the market in your country, including toys. If you have any queries about the toy safety always ask the manufacturer, retailer or appropriate public authority.



RAPEX

