



## Please Remember!!!

- ♥ Be VERY cautious when buying used toys. A bargain is not a good deal if it injures a child. Check for loose parts, sharp edges, and peeling paint. Many older toys were made before new toy safety rules were passed.
- ♥ The Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) maintains a complete listing of **recalled toys**. You can see this at: [www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/categoy/toy.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prere/categoy/toy.html)
- ♥ When you buy a new toy, don't trust the packet. Use the list inside this guide to check to see if it is a safe toy.
- ♥ Use the teddy bear picture on the inside of this guide and your thumb to find out if a toy is too small. Small toys can choke a child who is under 3 years old.
- ♥ If you give a child a bike, scooter, in-line skates, or a skateboard give them a helmet and safety gear too!
- ♥ Many toys in restaurant meals and party goody bags are too small for young children. Use the teddy bear pictured in this packet and your thumb to check if the toy is safe.
- ♥ Supervise children when they are playing. Watch how they use the toys. Children will find ways to play with toys that we don't expect. If you think it looks dangerous — trust your instincts and remove the toy.

Prepared for you by the  
**Baltimore County Department of Health**  
Injury Prevention Program  
"Your Partners in Prevention"

**(410)-887-2738**

TTY users-  
call through Maryland Relay

NS-159 6/95, Rev. 1107



Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith  
and the Baltimore County Council

[www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health)

**WARNING**  
**Some Toys Are**  
**Not Safe!**

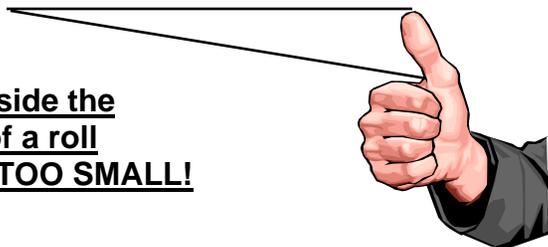


**A Guide to Picking**  
**SAFE TOYS**  
**for the Children in Your Life**

## UNSAFE TOYS may:

- ☹ be made with **sharp edges and points** (for example darts or toys with metal pieces). These can be dangerous, especially for children under 3 years old.
- ☹ be made with **long strings or elastic**. Babies in cribs can get tangled up in toys with long strings or elastic. To play it safe, keep all toys out of your child's crib.
- ☹ be **yard sale bargains or hand-me-downs**. They may have broken parts or small pieces that can hurt or choke a child. Many older toys were made before there were safety rules for toy makers.
- ☹ **contain lead**. Children who chew or suck on toys or put toys in their mouth may be exposed to unsafe levels of lead. This can cause lead poisoning.
- ☹ be toys that are **designed for older children**. The label on a toy shows you that some toys may be unsafe for young children to play with. (Check the label on the toy and match the toy to your child's age.)
- ☹ **toys with small parts**, for example, balloons, or small game pieces. **Children under 3 years old should not play with toys or toys with parts that are shorter than your thumb.**

**Toys that can fit inside the cardboard center of a roll of toilet tissue are TOO SMALL!**



## SAFE TOYS are:

- ☺ made with **smooth, soft edges and soft material** such as cloth.
- ☺ made **without strings or elastic** more than 12 inches long.
- ☺ **strong** and don't have loose buttons, eyes, or other small parts that could choke a child under 3 years old.
- ☺ **designed for the child's age**. (Check the toy's label to see what age it is made for. The age on a toy's label is not based on how clever a child is but on safety facts such as the risk for choking.)
- ☺ **not made of small parts**. Small parts could make your child choke.
- ☺ **not recalled**. Toys that contain lead or are found to be unsafe will be recalled. Unfortunately unsafe toys can still be found in some stores.



### Use this Quick and Simple Safety Check

ANY toy – or part of a toy – that can fit inside this circle is UNSAFE for children under 3 years old.