

CONGRESSMAN JOHN BARROW'S TOY SAFETY TIPS



Remember...

1. Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skill, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
2. For infants, toddlers, and children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts which pose a fatal choking hazard.
3. For children under 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
4. Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
5. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
6. Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, nose, and other small parts.
7. Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.

The top 5 toy hazards:

1. Scooters and other Riding Toys - Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn at all times and be sized to fit.
2. Small Balls and other Toys with Small Parts - For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
3. Balloons - Children under eight yrs. can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Keep un-inflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once.
4. Magnets - For children under age six, avoid building or play sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
5. Chargers and Adapters - Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

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