



# Guide to Child-Safe Gifts

## Ages 0-3 years

### Be Aware!

- ❖ Children can choke on small things of 1 ¾ inch or less
- ❖ Toys with strings, straps or cords more than 7 inches-*strangulation hazard*
- ❖ Avoid toys with small removable parts-*choking hazard*
- ❖ Check small parts, like a teddy bear's eyes and nose are securely attached
- ❖ Balloons are not recommended
- ❖ Toys with lithium battery-*burn risk*

### Gift Ideas!

- ❑ Infants: Soft dolls, stuffed animals (with no buttons or small parts), or cloth covered books
- ❑ Ages 1-3 years: Books, blocks, shape toys, or balls (no smaller than 1 ¾ inches)
- ❑ Read tags to make sure gifts are age-appropriate



## Ages 4-8

### Be Aware!

- ❖ Electric toys can be a burn hazard for this age
- ❖ Electronic devices are distractors and do not stimulate creative learning that helps brain development

### Gift Ideas!

- ❑ Non-toxic arts and crafts
- ❑ Books
- ❑ Musical Instruments
- ❑ Outdoor toys



## Ages 9 and older

### Be Aware!

- ❖ Electric trains and battery operated toys are safe for this age, but:
  - ✓ Children should not change batteries
  - ✓ Adults check for loose wires
- ❖ Electronic devices do not promote physical activity or brain development

### Gift Ideas!

- ❑ Sports equipment
- ❑ Bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller blades or skates
  - ✓ Helmet & protective gear



## All ages

### Be Aware & Never Buy:

- ✓ Propelled toys such as darts
- ✓ Toys with lead-based paint
- ✓ Toy guns, or pellet or BB guns
- ✓ Toys with sharp point or edges
- ✓ Toys that make loud noises-can injury hearing

### Always!

- ✓ Follow age recommendations
- ✓ Read instructions and teach your child how to properly use any new toy
- ✓ Immediately discard plastic wrappings, which can lead to suffocation among small children

Sources: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, National Safety Council, and Centers for Disease Control

