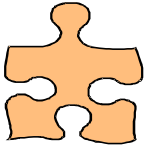
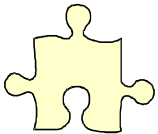


Toy Safety Fitting the Pieces Together

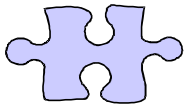


How you are protected- Design: All products undergo safety testing. Specific types and amounts of testing are determined by industry and government standards and vary by product. Toys are typically tested for things such as lead, small parts, sharp parts, mechanical issues and flammability.



What you can do: Read the label and follow the manufacturer's recommended guidelines for age-appropriate toys. Labels are required for safety and not just for "developmental" guidelines as many parents believe. They will help you choose a safe toy for your child and know when to prevent a younger child from playing with toys meant for older children. Other safety labels to look for include whether the toy is flame resistant and washable.

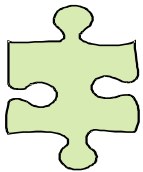
Example: Toys with magnets are now recommended for children over the age of 10 because the magnetic components can become dislodged and swallowed. When two or more magnets are swallowed, they become attracted to each other in the child's body and can only be removed surgically. That age specifically is recommended because reports of death and injury have been reported in children up to that age, not just in small toddlers.



How you are protected -Recalls: A toy can be recalled by the manufacturer of the toy or by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC determines through a variety of measures if a toy is potentially dangerous or harmful to consumers. (Items can also be recalled for missing required warning labels and instructions that, if not followed by the consumer, could cause a potential hazard.

What you can do:

*One method relied on by the commission is reports by consumers themselves reporting injuries associated with a product. This can be done online at: www.cpsc.gov/talk.html.



*Send in your product registration. For the most part, this is only used by manufacturers to notify purchasers in the event of a recall for the specific product purchased.

*Sign up to receive or review recall notices:

www.Recalls.gov – all types of recalls

www.CPSC.gov- consumer product recalls

www6.toysrus.com/guest/prodRecallsList.cfm- toy recalls

www.buckleupnc.org/using_recalls.cfm- child safety seat recalls

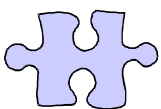
Once the toy is home:

*Dispose of all wrapping as that can be a hazard for small children

*Assemble toys properly

*Make sure the toy has a safe storage place

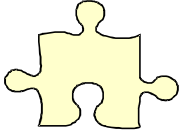
*Inspect toys regularly for loose, damaged, sharp, worn parts



Choosing a toy

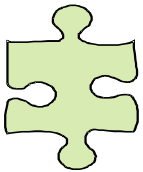
Choose toys according to a child's age, interests and skill level. Be sure to check the safety information on the warning labels.

All Children under 12



- No electrical parts
- No sharp points
- No BB guns or rocket type toys
- No ATV's until 16
- Bike helmet and safety pads for bikes
- Supervise your children around toys that may be violence related (guns, swords, video and computer games)
- If playground equipment ensure meets federal guidelines for safety and proper padding and placement is available in the yard for use.

Children under 5

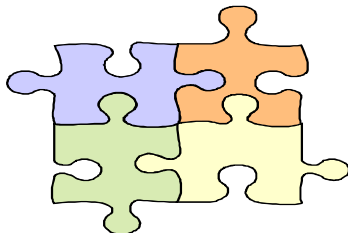


- Non toxic
- Non breakable
- Non latex (balloons)
- No long strings
- No small parts
- No areas to trap small fingers or toes
- Under 2 - push riding toys only - no pedals
- Remove packing from toy and child's play area so it does not become a hazard
- Make sure toys are sturdy as children tend to stand on them
- Make sure toys are soft as children tend to throw them
- No projectile toys until age 4
- Make sure toys are lightweight as children like to carry them around
- No magnets toys

What you can do to protect other children:

- Return recalled items instead of throwing them away. This ensures they are properly disposed of and not retrieved by another child for play.
- Inspect all used items you are selling or buying at garage sales, thrift stores or consignment sales for any loose, broken, sharp parts that may injure a child. Also, make sure the item doesn't appear on any recall lists.

For more information on toy safety and other aspects of toy selection visit:
http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/toy_sfy.html, www.toy-tia.org and
www.toyinfor.org



**Making Play
Safe For Children**