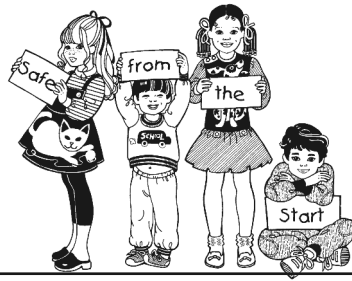


- Ensure that toys are used in a safe environment. Never leave toys outdoors overnight where rain, snow and dew may cause rust and damage.
- Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Avoid toys with heating elements, batteries, electrical plugs, etc. for children under age 6.
- If children are playing on riding toys, make sure they have a helmet on.
- The web site of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission has updated information and pictures of recalled toys that may be harmful to children, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).
- When new toys are purchased, send in the registration cards so as to be notified if there is a recall as most involve safety issues.
- Keep games or toys with magnets away from children who may put them in their mouth. If swallowed, seek medical help right away as the magnets can attract each other and cause damage in the stomach or intestines.



For more information contact  
**Safe Kids Grand Forks**

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[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)



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Preventing injuries:  
 at home,  
 at school,  
 at play,  
 and on the way.

## Toy Injury

## We Believe

Every kid has the right to grow up safe, healthy and free from injury.



## Toy Injury

Children ages 4 and under are at high risk for toy related injuries.

While falls and choking account for the majority of deaths and injuries, children also suffer from strangulation, burns, drowning, and poisoning while playing with toys.

Appropriate selection and proper use of toys, combined with parental supervision, can greatly reduce the incidence and severity of toy-related injuries.

### The Facts are In...

- The leading cause of toy-related death is choking or suffocation by a toy ball.
- Among children ages 14 and under, riding toys (including tricycles and unpowered scooters) are associated with more injuries than any other toy group.
- Males account for the largest percent of toy-related injuries.

### Steps to Toy Safety

- Use Mylar balloons instead of latex.
- Consider the child's age, interests and skill or ability level when selecting toys.

- Follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
- The proper selection of toys and supervision of play are essential.
- Avoid toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud noises and toys with projectiles (such as darts).
- Toys with strings, straps, or cords longer than 7 inches can unintentionally strangle children and should be avoided.
- Always supervise children at play.
- Inspect old and new toys regularly for damage and potential hazards at least every 3 months.
- Make necessary repairs immediately or discard damaged toys out of children's reach.
- Teach children to put toys away safely after playing. Toys intended for younger children should be stored separately from those of older children.
- Always remove and immediately discard all packaging from a toy before giving it to a baby or small child.
- Remove crib gyms and mobiles once an infant reaches 5 months of age or begins to push up on hands and knees.
- When using a toy box or chest, be sure it has a removable lid or a spring-loaded support that allows the lid to remain securely open.

- Toy cap guns use caps that can be ignited by the slightest friction and cause serious burns; these should not be used by children.
- No matter how old a child is, if he or she is still mouthing objects, be sure toys or pieces of toys, are too large to swallow or become lodged in the throat. Use a toilet paper tube for a guideline — if the toy fits in the tube, it is a choking hazard.
- Riding toys should not be used near stairs, areas of traffic or swimming pools
- Check for sturdy, well-sewn seams on stuffed animals. Make sure buttons and ribbons are securely fastened and cannot be pulled or bitten off.
- Play is even more valuable when adults become involved and interact with children during play rather than supervising from a distance.

