

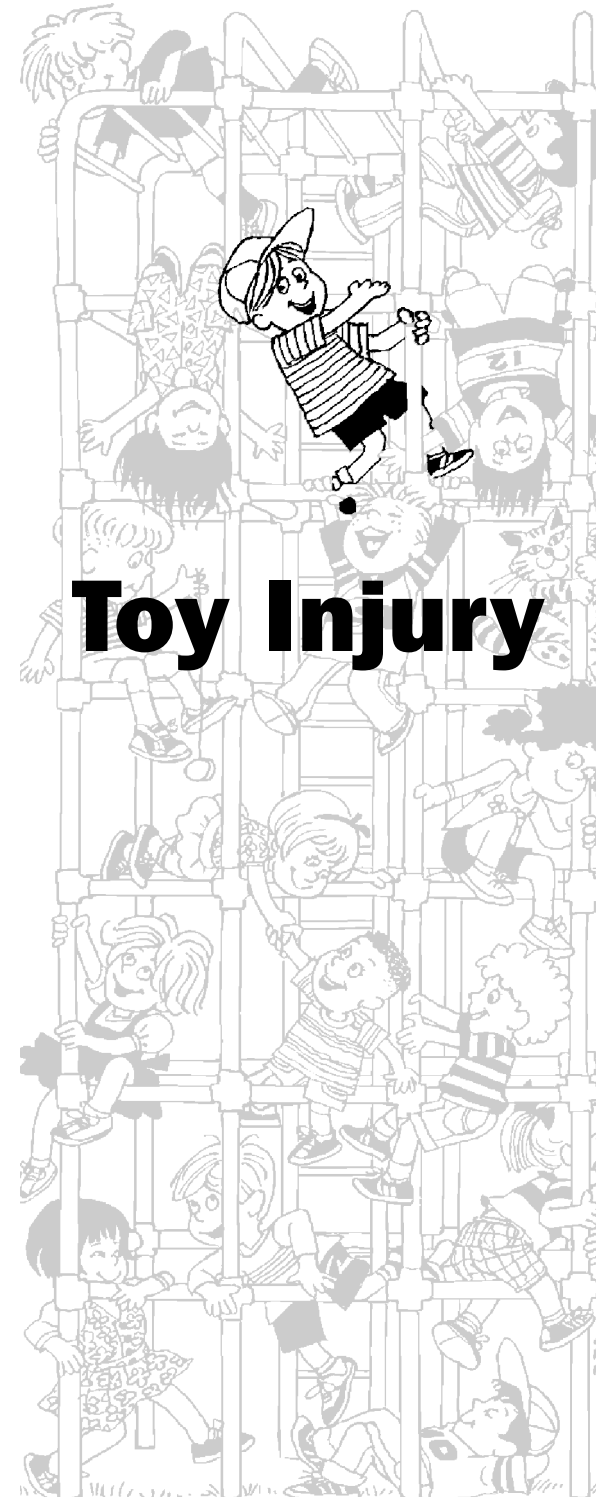
- Check for sturdy, well-sewn seams on stuffed animals. Make sure buttons and ribbons are securely fastened and cannot be pulled or bitten off.
- Riding toys should not be used near stairs, areas of traffic or swimming pools.
- Play is even more valuable when adults become involved and interact with children during play rather than supervising from a distance.
- Ensure toys intended for younger children are stored separately from those for older children.
- Make necessary repairs immediately or discard damaged toys out of children's reach.
- Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Avoid toys with heating elements, batteries, electrical plug, etc. for children under age 6.
- The proper selection of toys and supervision of play are essential.



For more information contact:

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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.

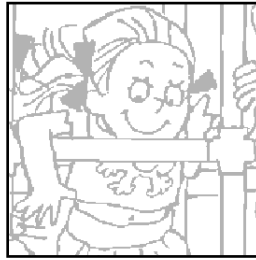
Appropriate selection and proper use of toys, combined with parental supervision, can greatly reduce the incidence and severity of toy-related injuries.

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 unpowered scooters) are associated with more injuries than any other toy group.

Males account for the largest percent of toy-related injuries.



Steps To Safety

- Use mylar balloons instead of latex.
 - Consider the child's age, interests and skill or ability level when selecting toys.
 - Avoid toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud noises and projectiles (such as darts).
 - Toys with strings, straps, or cords longer than 7 inches can unintentionally strangle children and should be avoided.
 - Follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
 - Ensure that toys are used in a safe environment. Never leave toys outdoors overnight where rain, snow and dew may cause rust and damage to toys.
 - Always supervise children at play.
 - Teach children to put toys away safely after playing.
 - Inspect old and new toys regularly for damage and potential hazards at least every 3 months.
 - 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 toilet paper tube for guideline. If the toy fits in the tube, it's a choking hazard.
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