

# December is Toy Safety Month

## Play it Safe

Each year, it seems that the simplest playthings—and even their packaging—can pose a risk for injury: plastic film, button batteries, uninflated balloons, and magnets are just a few extra things to watch each holiday season.<sup>1</sup> Here's how you can play it safe.

## Buy Safe

Whether you're shopping for holiday gifts for your own children or someone else's, here are a few commonsense tips that are perfect for every season:

- Read labels for safety notes.
- Choose age-appropriate toys (get help here: [https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2\\_0.pdf](https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2_0.pdf)).
- Discard plastic wrap (suffocation hazard).
- Supervise, especially with riding toys.
- Inspect toys regularly for splinters, sharp edges, etc.
- Choose appropriate storage (avoid self-closing lids).

## Eyes on the Prize

Children's eyes are vulnerable to toy dangers, and these items top the list of causes for children's ER visits:

- Toy guns that shoot anything, even water
- Toy poles of any type
- Toy wands, swords, sabers, or bayonets
- Aerosol string
- Laser pointers and bright flashlights
- Paintballs

## W.A.T.C.H.

Every year, World Against Toys Causing Harm (W.A.T.C.H.) releases its list of the top ten most dangerous toys. You can find this year's list here:

<https://toysafety.org/toy-safety/2019-10-worst-toy-list>.

Avēsis wishes you all a happy—and safe—holiday season!



**>251,000**

Toy-related injuries leading to an ER visit<sup>2</sup>



**44%**

Injuries to the face and head<sup>2</sup>



**Basketball & Baseball**

Sports attributed to the most eye injuries<sup>2</sup>

1. <https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/toys>, accessed September 2019.

2. <https://www.preventblindness.org/more-251000-toy-related-injuries-treated-us-emergency-departments>, accessed September 2019.

*Material discussed is meant for general informational purposes only and is not to be construed as medical advice. Although the information has been gathered from sources believed to be reliable, please note that individual situations can vary. You should always consult a licensed professional when making decisions concerning eye care. Links to external sites are provided for your convenience in locating related information and services. Guardian, its subsidiaries, agents and employees expressly disclaim any responsibility for and do not maintain, control, recommend, or endorse third-party sites, organizations, products, or services and make no representation as to the completeness, suitability, or quality thereof*

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