

Adult gift-givers should check toys for safety

While the kids are making a list of toys they want for the holidays, adults should be checking it twice for safety. Make sure you and other gift-givers are safety savvy before you hit the stores this holiday season.

Selecting toys
Parents and caregivers can make sure they're choosing safe toys for their children by paying close attention to warning labels and manufacturer's guidelines.

"More than 3 billion toys and games are sold in the U.S. every year, and most of them are very safe. Warning labels and manufacturers' instructions tell you how to use the product safely," says Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. "If the manufacturer set a minimum age or other restrictions, there's a reason. For example, a label reading not appropriate for children under three may be present because the toy poses a choking hazard, not because it's too difficult for a two-year-old."

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in 2009, there were an estimated 186,000 emergency room-treated injuries related to toys with children younger than age 15. This is an increase from the 152,000 injuries reported in 2005. However, toy-related fatalities in 2007 and 2008.

"If you buy toys secondhand or get hand-me-downs, visit www.recalls.gov to make sure the toy hasn't been recalled for safety reasons," says Sage. Sign up for emails alerts to keep up-to-date on toy recalls beyond the holiday itself. If a new toy comes with a product registration card, mail it in right away so the manufacturer can contact you if the item is ever recalled. To sign up for recall emails, go to www.cpsc.gov and click on "Sign Up for Safety News and Recall E-mails."

Don't hesitate to report defects or design features that seem dangerous. "If your child has a close call, the next child might not be so lucky," says Sage. "Report safety concerns about toys to the Consumer Product Safety Commission at (800) 638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov. Your experience could be part of a pattern that might lead to a recall."

Safe Kids Kansas also recommends:
• Make sure to buy age-appropriate toys. All toys are clearly marked if they have small parts; do not buy toys with small parts for children younger than age three (or allow a child under age three to play with those kinds of toys belonging to an older sibling). Also, avoid building sets with small magnets for children. Magnets are dangerous if swallowed.

• Identify dangerous small parts. To be sure of a toy's size use a small parts tester or the cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper to identify choking hazards. Do not let small children play with anything that can fit into one of these cylinders.

• Keep batteries out of sight and out of reach. Lithium button batteries are coin-sized batteries that can easily be swallowed by children and can come from many devices, such as remote controls. Other places you may find them are: singing greeting cards, watches, bathroom scales and flameless candles. If a child swallow a battery, go to the emergency room immediately. Tell doctors and nurses that you child may have swallowed a battery. Do not let the child eat or drink until a chest x-ray can determine if a battery is present. Do not induce vomiting. Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at (202) 625-3333 for additional treatment information.

• Buy the proper safety gear. Riding toys account for the greatest number of toy-related injuries. If you purchase a riding toy, such as a scooter, skateboard, in-line skates or bicycle, remember that the gift isn't complete without a helmet and appropriate protective gear.

• Inspect toys to make sure they are in

good repair. Check children's play areas for missing or dislodged parts. Do not let young children play with toys that have straps, cords or strings longer than seven inches, due to the risk of strangulation.

• Actively supervise children. Caregivers should actively supervise children playing with any toy that has small parts, moving parts, electrical or battery power, cords, wheels or any potentially risky component. Simply being in the same room as your child is not necessarily supervising. Active supervision means keeping the child in sight and in reach and paying undivided attention.

• Practice proper storage. Teach children to put toys away after playing to help prevent falls and unsupervised play, and make sure toys intended for younger children are stored separately from those for older children. Safe storage also applies to adult toys, such as the small, powerful magnets used as stress relievers. Magnets that are ingested can attract to each other in the digestive system and cause extreme internal injury, sometimes requiring radical gastrointestinal surgery. Keep these out of reach and out of sight of children.

Shop safely
It is estimated that more than 20,000 children ages five and under are injured

by shopping carts each year in the U.S., according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Falls are the most common cause of shopping-cart related injury in children of this age group, accounting for 83 percent of all injuries. Tip-overs and children colliding with the shopping cart are other causes of injury.

Top five ways to avoid shopping-cart injuries:

1. Never leave your child unattended in a shopping cart and stay close to the cart at all times.
2. If you are placing your child in the shopping cart seat, always use a harness or the safety belt provided to restrain your child.
3. Never place your own infant carrier on top of a shopping cart.
4. Do not let your child ride in the cart basket, under the basket, on the sides or front of the cart.
5. Use the shopping carts that have a wheeled child carrier that is permanently attached and made part of the shopping cart. Some of these models look like cars or benches attached to the shopping cart.

matters of record

District Court

These are cases decided by the Goodland District Court:

- Jan. 16:** Antwan M. Howard, speeding, fined \$157.
- Feb. 18:** Rocky R. Carley, speeding, fined \$275.
- April 7:** Jennifer M. Todd, speeding, fined \$202.
- May 31:** Trevor J. Slaughter, speeding, fined \$143.
- June 1:** Daniel S. Marshall, speeding, fined \$224.
- Sabrina A. Morton, speeding, fined \$167.
- Jason S. Zudell, speeding, fined \$326.
- June 4:** Anthony L. Shockley, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fined \$616.

July 19: John T. Haskell, failure to yield at stop or yield sign, fined \$173.

- June 23:** Billie J. Lusk, speeding, fined \$167.
- July 11:** Brian D. Hatt, speeding, fined \$155.
- July 22:** April Y. Mendoza, speeding, fined \$185.
- July 27:** Suhrob A. Sobirov, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$213.
- Suhrob A. Sobirov, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$115.
- July 30:** Tara L. Kaldahl, speeding, fined \$149.
- July 31:** Mary M. Wolfe, speeding, fined \$224.
- Aug. 1:** Timothy S. Vaughn,

violation of restrictions on driver's license or permit, fined \$158.

- Timothy S. Vaughn, speeding, fined \$63.
- Aug. 2:** Gregory L. Calvert, speeding, fined \$149.
- Aug. 5:** Aaron C. Navarro, transporting an open container, deferred adjudication \$298.
- Aug. 6:** Emmanuel A. Eviparker, speeding, fined \$135.
- Aug. 11:** Aerial B. Lassiter, speeding, fined \$143.
- Aug. 16:** Jessica Paige Musgrove, driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked, fined \$398.
- Jessica Paige Musgrove, speeding, fined \$75.
- Jessica Paige Musgrove, vehicles, liability insurance coverage

- required, fined \$260.
- Aug. 17:** Michael J. Copitas, speeding, fined \$248.
- Aug. 19:** James N. Curry, speeding, fined \$149.
- Aug. 20:** Marshall T. Leis, speeding, fined \$161.
- Bradley J. Vettraino, speeding, fined \$167.
- Hannah Kinyon, operating a motor vehicle without a valid license, disposed due to failure to appear.
- Aug. 23:** Rachael Louise Cardenas, driving while license was cancelled, suspended or revoked, deferred adjudication \$298.
- Paul J. Weber, driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked, fined \$458.
- Aug. 24:** Howard E. Earl, speed-

- ing, fined \$143.
- Sherman D. Elliott, over weight limits on wheels and axles, disposed due to failure to appear.
- Matthew W. Slusher, driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked, fined \$398.
- Aug. 26:** Patrick K. Mildrum, speeding, fined \$173.
- Aug. 28:** Leona M. Kimminau, vehicles; unlawful acts, registration, fined \$158.
- Leona M. Kimminau, no seatbelt, fined \$10.
- Sept. 1:** Cutberto T. Cilorio, no seatbelt, fined \$10.
- Sept. 2:** Justin P. Marks, speeding, fined \$293.
- Lance J. Williams, use of wireless communication device while

- driving to send or receive messages, fined \$160.
- Lance J. Williams, speeding, fined \$45.
- Sept. 5:** Jane D. Dillom, speeding, fined \$173.
- David L. Smith, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fined \$213.
- Sept. 6:** Omer Bilgen, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$213.
- Omer Bilgen, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$115.
- Brenden Eugene Files, speeding, fined \$275.
- Sept. 12:** Gloffrey T. Tolentino, speeding, fined \$173.
- Sept. 13:** Eduardo A. Beltran, speeding, fined \$197.

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