how safe are your child’s toys?

a safety guide for parents and carers of babies and young children
Most children's toys in the UK are actually very safe to use. However, accidents can happen either where a young child is given or gets hold of a toy designed for an older child, or as a result of toys being left out. Nevertheless, accidents can and do happen. Simple measures in place can help you to prevent your child from getting hurt.

Choosing safe toys

💡 always try to buy from a specialist toy shop or a well known high street chain. Avoid markets or temporary shops. Second hand toys are not recommended. A toy library can be a safer option – find out if there is one in your area

💡 ask for advice from the sales staff if you are not sure what to buy and look for safety and age warnings

💡 check the toy to make sure it is well made and will withstand play.

Understanding marks on toys:

⚠️ Age warning symbols show that a toy is not safe for children under under three years old. A warning is often given because toys contain small parts that a baby or young toddler could choke on. These warnings are different from age guidance – see section on choosing the right toy for your child’s age

❗️ The Lion Mark is a good way of finding a safe toy. Toys with this mark have been made to the highest standards of safety and quality and the mark is used by members of the British Toy and Hobby Association

💡 You might also see the CE mark on toys. This mark is required by law on all toys sold within the European Union. It is not an indication of quality or safety.
Very safe and accidents tend to happen old of a toy that is intended for an ut and tripped over.
Find out how putting a few simple safety our child having an accident with a toy.

Choosing the right toy for your child's age

Most toys have a suggested age range on the packaging. However, these are usually only for guidance.

🌟 babies under a year should not be given toys with long fur or hair that can cause choking

🌟 think about what your child is able to do and what he/she will find challenging. Your child will not play with a toy for long if he/she finds it too babyish or too difficult

🌟 remember to make sure that young children are not able to play with their older brother's or sister's toys. Something that is safe for a six or seven year old can cause serious injury to a toddler

🌟 you might see guidance on some toys suggesting they need adult supervision. These are often toys that are made to be used in water or baking kits that have to be put in the oven. These can be fun for young children but you should always be there when they are used.
Looking after toys

👉 teach children to put their toys away when they are not being used. Most accidents involving toys happen when children and adults trip over them. Serious accidents can happen if toys are left on the stairs.

👉 go through your child’s toy box regularly and throw away any broken toys. Do not be tempted to give them away to jumble sales or charity shops - you will be passing the problem on to another family.

👉 if your child has toys that run on batteries make sure you change them all at the same time. If you mix old and new batteries the old ones can get overheated.
Tips for individual toys

Cot toys are a good way of keeping babies stimulated but should be removed as soon as your baby can sit up or get on all fours. Babies can strangle on cot toys if they fall on the strings. They can also use them to climb out of the cot. Cot toys should never have strings that are longer than 20cm (8”).

Noisy toys like cap guns can damage hearing. Never allow children to hold them near their own or anyone else’s ears.

Kites are a great way of getting children out in the open air and can be a lot of fun. Make sure they are not used near overhead power lines and be careful that your child cannot get tangled in the strings.

Garden toys such as swings should be solid and sturdy. Use them over well watered grass or soil and make sure there is plenty of room around them. Check nuts, bolts and other fittings regularly.

Paddling pools must be emptied after use and either put away or turned upside down. A small child can drown in just 5cm (2”) water – this depth can easily collect in an empty pool left out in the rain.

Chemistry sets are usually only suitable for children over ten. Follow the age guidance carefully and make sure you are nearby in case there are any problems.

capt is a charity committed to reducing childhood injury.

18-20 Farringdon Lane, London EC1R 3HA
020 7608 3923, 020 7608 3844
safefr@capt.org.uk, w www.capt.org.uk

approved charity number 260627
registered Accident Prevention Trust 2962
LEA001600021

child accident prevention trust