



## For Immediate Release

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### ***SAFE TOY TIPS FOR THE 2021 HOLIDAY SEASON***

**Mechanicsburg, Pa.** – According to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) report, 226,000 toy-related injuries were reported in 2018. The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) and Safe Kids Pennsylvania want to ensure a merry and safe holiday season. Approximately 50 percent of all United States toy purchases are made between Black Friday and Christmas. Additionally, experts have suggested shopping and ordering gifts earlier due to supply chain issues.

“Americans are about to embark on the country’s busiest toy-buying season,” said Jessica Ritter, Safe Kids Pennsylvania State Office Coordinator. “Taking the time to make sure toys and gifts are age and maturity level appropriate is the best way to ensure a happy holiday season.”

“Our children are some of the most important people in our life,” said Krista Brands, ATSPA CEO. “The first step to ensure their safety is reading the warning labels and purchasing the proper toys.”

ATSPA and Safe Kids PA offer these tips to ensure safe gift giving this year:

1. **Consider your child’s age and ability when purchasing a toy or game.** Take a moment to read the warning label and locate the suggested age range. This information is put on toy packaging to help ensure the safety of children. Small game pieces or accessories can be a choking hazard for children and pets. Toys that heat up may need parental supervision to avoid burns.
2. **Pay attention to gifts need batteries.** According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, more than 2,500 children ingest button batteries every year. Keep a close eye on batteries and gifts that require them. These include remote controls, singing greeting cards, watches, hearing aids, children’s toys, key fobs, tea light candles, flashing holiday jewelry, decorations, and many other everyday items.
3. **Consider toxicity.** Children are known for putting things in their mouth. Ensure that any paints, crayons, markers, puddy, play clay, etc. are non-toxic. Make sure that there is no lead in the toys. Pay close attention to children when they are using these items to prevent ingestion.
4. **Consider accessories that promote safety.** Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (give a helmet with the skateboard).
5. **After play time is over, use a bin or container to store toys for next time.** Make sure there are no holes or hinges that could catch little fingers. Also, ensure that all part and pieces make their way into the bin before being put away.
6. **Be informed about products.** Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection – “ATSM” means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.



Check for any recalls - Safe Kids makes it easy for you by sending an e-mail alert twice a month. Parents can sign up at [www.safekids.org/product-recalls](http://www.safekids.org/product-recalls).

More information on safe toys is available at [www.pasafekids.org](http://www.pasafekids.org) or by calling (717) 766-1616.

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The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit organization committed to trauma prevention and mitigation through education and advocacy. Our work includes providing presentations and educational materials on many trauma prevention topics, including concussions, water safety, senior falls, bike safety, traffic safety and much more.

Safe Kids Pennsylvania is dedicated to keeping kids safe from preventable childhood injury, which is the number one cause of death among children ages 1 to 19. These injuries range from accidental falls, to poisonings, car crashes, drownings, and many more. Safe Kids Pennsylvania is one of many statewide coalitions under Safe Kids Worldwide, and is led by the American Trauma Society, PA Division. For more information on Safe Kids PA, visit our website at <https://www.pasafekids.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/safekidspa/>.