



Each year, more than 3 billion toys and games are sold in the United States, and more than half of those are sold during the holiday season. Although the majority of toys are safe, they can be dangerous if misused or if they fall into the hands of children who are too young to play with them.

**Whether children are working on a puzzle, playing with building blocks or even inventing their own games, there are several important safety factors to weigh:**



Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game—read the instructions and warning labels to make sure it is appropriate for your child



Check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards



Look for points, edges or breakable parts that could be sharp and avoid those toys for kids under eight



Include safety equipment if you are purchasing toys such as bicycles, skateboards or roller skates



Use a bin or container to store toys to avoid tripping hazards

**Each year the “Trouble in Toyland” provides safety guidelines for consumers when purchasing toys for small children and gives examples of toys currently on store shelves that may pose potential safety hazards.**