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Holiday Safety Tips for Toddlers

Celebrating holidays with kids can be so much fun. Parties, presents, lights and decorations are magical. However, they can also be dangerous for curious toddlers. The American Academy of Pediatrics gives parents tips to help families celebrate safely.

Toy Safety

Buy toys that suit the age, ability and interest level of the child. Toys too advanced may be unsafe for young children.

Read instructions carefully before buying or allowing a child to play with a toy.

Buy battery operated toys, not electric, for children under age 10. Toys that plug into an electrical outlet may burn or shock the child.

Make sure that toys for kids under age 3 do not have parts less than 1 ¼ inches wide by 2 ¼ inches long. Check for age guidelines before buying or opening a toy.

Remember that kids younger than age 8 can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons.

Remove strings and ribbons from toys. They could strangle your child.

Avoid pull toys with a string that is longer than 12 inches. It could strangle your child.





Decoration Safety

Avoid decorations that are sharp or break easily.

Keep decorations with small removable parts out of the reach of small children. Kids may inhale or swallow these parts.

Put away decorations that look like food or candy. Young children may be tempted to eat them.

Throw away wrapping paper, bags, ribbons and bows immediately after gifts are opened. Children could choke or suffocate on these items. They could also cause a fire if they are left near a flame, fireplace or tree.





Guests & Party Safety

Clean up right away after a party. A toddler could choke on leftover food the next morning. He may also find alcohol or tobacco.

Look out for danger spots when visiting homes. Help your host child-proof the room where your child plays. Place bedside medications and purses out of the reach of children.

Keep a list with important phone numbers for your babysitter. Include police, fire department, doctor and the Poison Help Line 1-800-222-1222. (Find an emergency checklist to print at at www. parenthelpline.org.)

Food Safety

Keep hot liquids and hot foods away from the edges of counters and tables. Young children could easily knock them over and get burned.

Call the Parent Help Line. We listen. We can find you help.
1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week
or log onto www.parenthelpline.org