

# PREVENTION WEDNESDAY

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City of Baltimore

Health Department

Mayor Sheila Dixon

Toy Safety

## Did You Know?

- In 2007, 61 toys were recalled given safety concerns.
- Choking is the most frequent cause of death from toys.
- Toxic levels of lead can be found in some toys and children's jewelry sold in the U.S. Most toys are not currently tested for lead levels.
- Baltimore City Health Department is the first to create a "Healthy Homes" division, focused comprehensively on lead poisoning prevention and home environmental health.

Playing with toys, especially those that require active imagination such as blocks and dolls or action figures, is important to the development of children. Recent recalls of toys remind us to select safe toys this holiday season.

**Tip 1** Check a toy's safety status with the Consumer Product Safety Commission by calling **1-800-638-CPSC**. Ask about recent recalls. And when in doubt, throw it out.

**Tip 2** Children under the age of three are at high risk for choking on toys.

- Toys within their reach should be larger than the diameter of a toilet paper roll.
- Avoid balloons. Even older children are at risk for choking on deflated or broken balloons.

## Lead Screening for Kids

Lead can cause neurological damage and even death when swallowed by children.

All children in Baltimore City must be screened for lead at the ages of 12 months and 24 months- it's the law.

Call the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at **443-984-2470** for more information on how to have your child tested.

**Tip 3** Avoid toys with long cords or large strings that can strangle.

**Tip 4** Toys with magnetic parts can be very harmful when ingested. Avoid these toys for small children.

## Resources and References

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Information for this Prevention Wednesday was gathered from:

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Parenting Corner Q & A: Toy Safety at [http://www.aap.org/publiced/BR\\_ToySafety.htm](http://www.aap.org/publiced/BR_ToySafety.htm) and 2007 Holiday Safety Tips at <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/novtips.htm>

American Academy of Family Physicians. Kid's health: Choosing safe toys. [http://www.kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=familydoctor&lic=44&article\\_set=20559&cat\\_id=150](http://www.kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=familydoctor&lic=44&article_set=20559&cat_id=150)

**& Lea este articulo en espanol:**

[http://www.kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=familydoctor&article\\_set=60188&lic=44&cat\\_id=20264](http://www.kidshealth.org/PageManager.jsp?dn=familydoctor&article_set=60188&lic=44&cat_id=20264)

Baltimore City Department of Public Health. Lead Testing. <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/info/LeadTestingFlyer.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Toys and childhood lead exposure. <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/faq/toys.htm>

Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning. [http://www.lead-safe.org/content/kids\\_and\\_lead/](http://www.lead-safe.org/content/kids_and_lead/)

Mattel Consumer Relations Answer Center. Fisher Price toys with lead paint hazard recall. [http://service.mattel.com/us/recall/default.asp?recall\\_id=52430](http://service.mattel.com/us/recall/default.asp?recall_id=52430)

Safe Kids USA. Toy Safety. <http://sk.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/Campaigns/ToySafety/campaignToySafety>

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Memorandum on toy-related injuries and deaths in 2004. <http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/FOIA/FOIA06/os/toymemo04.pdf>

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. <http://www.cpsc.gov/> or call (800)-638-CPSC. For a list of specific toys: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/category/toy.html>

U.S. PIRG. Toy safety. <http://www.uspirg.org/issues/toy-safety>