



For Immediate Release

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National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, Offers Useful Holiday Shopping Tips

*Organization provides toy safety tips and age appropriate toy suggestions
in time for the holiday shopping season*

Omaha, Neb, - Nov. 26, 2008 Just in time for holiday shopping, National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, is offering parents tips on purchasing the perfect toys for their young ones.

“We often get excited about finding the perfect gift or get caught up in the rush of last minute purchases,” said Kay Farrell, president/CEO of the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter. “We encourage all parents to take a few extra minutes to make sure they are selecting safe toys appropriate for the child’s age.”

National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, advises parents to take the following into consideration when selecting toys:

- Look for well-made toys and follow age and safety guidelines on the warning labels.
- Remember children under age three can choke on small toys and toy parts.
- Make sure balls are at least 1.75 inches in diameter for children younger than six.
- Children’s ears are sensitive. If a toy seems too loud for your ears, it is probably too loud for a child. Take the batteries out of loud toys or cover the speaker with tape.
- Avoid toys made of PVC plastic which could contain toxic phthalates posing developmental hazards.
- Choose unpainted wooden or cloth toys.
- If purchasing toys such as bicycles, scooters, skateboards and inline skates, make them safer by also giving a helmet, knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards. Check www.safenebraska.org for safe and proper gear.
- Stay informed of toy recalls. Check www.recalls.gov.

National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, also encourages parents to choose toys according to a child’s age, interest and skill level. Below are gift ideas based on specific age groups:

Newborn to 1-year-old

- Cloth, plastic or board books with large pictures
- Large blocks of wood or plastic
- Rattles
- Soft washable animals, dolls or balls
- Floating bath toys
- Squeeze toys

1– to 2–year-old

- Cloth, plastic or board books with large pictures
- Sturdy dolls
- Kiddy cars
- Musical tops
- Nesting blocks
- Push and pull toys (no long strings)
- Stacking toys
- Toy telephones (without cords)

2– to 5-year-old

- Books (short stories or action stories)
- Blackboard and chalk
- Building blocks
- Crayons, nontoxic finger paints, clay
- Hammer and bench
- Dress-up clothes
- Simple puzzles with large pieces

5– to 9–year-old

- Blunt scissors, sewing kits
- Card games
- Doctor and nurse kits
- Balls
- Bicycles and helmets
- Crafts
- Electric trains
- Paper dolls
- Jump ropes
- Roller skate or blades with protective gear
- Table games

10– to 14-year-old

- Computer games
- Sewing, knitting, needle work
- Microscopes/telescopes
- Table and board games
- Sports equipment
- Hobby collections

Once children receive their gifts, parents should be reminded to supervise them during play to avoid injury. Parents should also remember to check toys regularly for damage. If sharp edges appear, make repairs immediately or throw the toy away. Finally, remember to teach kids to pick up their toys. Safe storage prevents falls and other injuries.

“There’s nothing better than the joy associated with a child receiving a toy they’ve been wishing for,” said Farrell. “We simply want everyone to be happy and safe this holiday season.”

About the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter

Founded in 1924, the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, is a private non-profit, community based organization that promotes safety and health by providing programs, resource services and education to individuals and organizations to prevent both the personal and economic loss associated with injuries, accidents and health hazards wherever they exist. Under the leadership of the National Safety Council, Greater Omaha Chapter, the greater Omaha metro area was recently designated a safe

community by the United Nation's World Health Organization (WHO). For more information, visit www.safenebraska.org.