



# Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2007

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## Its Time for Toy Safety: Shop Smart

As advertisers won't let us forget, the holidays are upon us. However, the media seems to be saturated with stories of injured children and recalled toys. So what is a consumer to do?

Although there are regulations guiding what can be sold on U.S. shelves and standards that must be met by manufacturers, some violations are not found until after the product has reached the public. It is critical that family and friends of children be vigilant consumers.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission Review (Fall 2006/Winter 2007) "...there were 202,300 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms [in 2005]." Of these injuries 75% were to children under 15 years.

Luckily there are ways to keep our loved ones safe. The CPSC updates its website ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) daily with product recalls and offers a free customizable subscription that will update you when products you use are recalled.

We must remember that even toys that meet all necessary standards can still pose risks when used improperly or by the wrong people. It is our responsibility to ensure we are providing our children with age and ability appropriate toys despite how advanced or intelligent we believe our children to be. Age limits are imposed on toys for a variety of reasons and adhering to them is a first line of defense. Of course nothing beats adult supervision.

**See the back of this letter for more smart shopping tips.**

## Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

- Meeting minutes and presentations from the last quarterly meeting (Poison Prevention) will be available on the Partnership website.
- The next Quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 5th, 2008. Please save this date and watch for more details in the New Year.

**The Partnership would like to wish all of it's members a safe and happy holiday season!!**

- The Partnership would like to welcome Joy Marowski as its newest Board of Advisors Member
- As legislative session approaches, please make the Partnership aware of injury/violence related bills as we will be posting them to help our members stay informed.



# Its Time for Toy Safety: Shop Smart

## Tips for Toy Safety from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

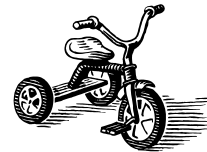
Stay up to date on current product recalls by visiting the CPSC website at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or by subscribing to CPSC's custom recall announcements at the same website.



- **Be a label reader.** Always look for and heed toy labels that give age and safety recommendations.
- **Select toys to suit the appropriate age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child.** Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.
- **Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points** for children under 8 years old

According to CPSC you should avoid the following toys as they are most likely to cause injury to small children:

- Magnets for children under age six.
- Small parts for children younger than age three.
- Ride-on Toys. If you do buy ride-on toys a helmet must also be given and sized to fit. This is necessary for all age groups.
- Projectile toys are for older children only and pose a risk of eye injury to anyone.
- Toys with chargers or adapters as they pose a risk for thermal burns.



No matter what toy you buy, remember adult supervision is most effective in preventing injuries in children.



*Don't forget to visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) for a more complete list of toy related dangers, other ways to protect your loved ones or to report product related injuries.*

**Resources:** [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) [www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org)