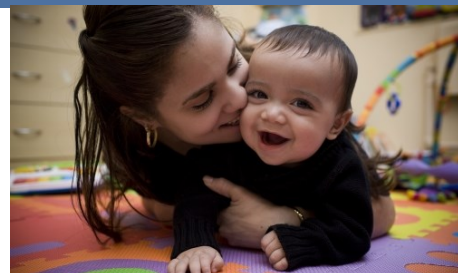




Center's Tip of the Month: Toy Safety


-- Tips for a safe holiday season --

With the holidays right around the corner, the season of new toys is upon us. While children are focused on the fun, parents know that safety is the most important consideration for toys. Harmful chemicals, such as phthalates and lead, are a danger to health and can be found in toys. Use these helpful tips and resources as a guide for your holiday shopping this year and ensure a safe and healthy New Year for the whole family!



Tips & Resources

What can you do? Choose toys less likely to contain chemicals.

- ◆ Avoid vintage toys as they may contain lead paint.
- ◆ Choose alternatives to plastic. Try wood or fabric toys as a plastic-free alternative.
- ◆ Toys made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) often contain phthalates. Choose toys without PVC by checking the toy's label or looking for this symbol:  Safer plastic alternatives include polypropylene or polyethylene.

What can you do? Read labels and stay informed.

- ◆ Always choose toys with the appropriate age recommendation.
- ◆ Look for toys that meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) toy safety standards.
- ◆ Pay attention to the warning labels; they provide important information about a toy's safety.
- ◆ Check for toy recalls on the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety website](http://www.saferchild.org).

What can you do? Use these resources for safe and creative holiday gifts

- ◆ Check out Women's Voices for the Earth [Non-Toxic Shopping Guide!](#) It includes tips, resources and recommendations for safe gifts.
- ◆ Read these [Toy Safety Tips](#) from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.



Wishing you & your family a happy and healthy holiday season!



Have questions? Want to learn more? Please email us at [cccehcolumbia@gmail.com!](mailto:cccehcolumbia@gmail.com)



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