

Make Sure Your Child's Toys Are Safe



1. **Offer children toys to play with that fit their age and development.** You wouldn't want a young toddler playing with small Legos™ that could easily be swallowed.
2. **Here are some safety tips to help you to keep your child playing safely:**
 - ◆ Every once in a while check your child's toys for damage. Broken plastic can have very sharp edges; small pieces could pull loose and be easily swallowed.
 - ◆ Encourage your child to put toys away when he/she is finished playing with them so he/she won't trip and fall over them.
 - ◆ Loud noises can be even louder in the house and can cause permanent hearing damage. If your child must play with loud toys, only allow them to be played with outside.
 - ◆ Infants and young children should be kept away from toys with cords and strings that can strangle them. Never hang looping strings or ribbons over a crib. Remember to take crib toys down when your child is old enough to start pulling on them.
 - ◆ Children under the age of 3 should not play with toys that have small, removable objects that they could put into their mouths and swallow.
 - ◆ Children under the age of 8 should not be allowed to play with toys that have sharp glass or metal edges that they may cut themselves on. Avoid toys with sharp points that children may fall on.
 - ◆ Toys that shoot things can be very dangerous. Always have an adult present when your child plays with them.
3. These are just a few of the many toy safety tips. Ask your health care provider for more information or go to: <http://www.babycenter.com>.
4. You may find the Lekotek Center's *Toy Lending Libraries* and *Family Play Sessions* helpful. To learn more, go to: <http://www.lekotek.org>, or call Toy Resource Helpline: 1-800-366-PLAY (7529).

We're here to help. To learn more about UIC-Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at:

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