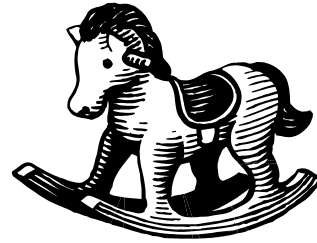


# Toy Safety



## True Story

*A 2-year-old was playing in the kitchen of her home while her mother cleaned. The child began to choke on a small toy ball. Several efforts to remove it were unsuccessful. An ambulance took the child to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was asphyxiation.*

-From the files of MECAP  
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

## The Facts

- Each year more than 155,400 children ages 14 and younger are treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.
- The most common injuries are caused by the following types of toys: Toys with small removable parts, toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud noises, toys that propel darts, toys with strings longer than seven inches, electrical toys, toys painted with lead paint and toy cap guns.
- The leading cause of toy-related death is choking or suffocation by a toy ball.
- Riding toys (including un-powered scooters) are associated with more injuries than any other group of toys.

## What You Can Do

- By age-appropriate toys for children.
- Avoid latex balloons for young children.
- Provide appropriate adult supervision during play.
- Teach older siblings to pick up their age-appropriate toys and place out of reach from small children.
- Keep a small parts tester in your home to use when in doubt. An empty cardboard toilet paper roll works as a small parts tester.



Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit [www.dsmsafekids.org](http://www.dsmsafekids.org).