

Enjoy the Holidays, Safely

December 2008

Parenting *Rules!*



Regardless of how you celebrate the Holiday season, your family's calendar may become hectic and over-scheduled. When parents become stressed and distracted by this busy time of year, children are at a greater risk of injury.

Following simple safety precautions can help you ensure a healthy and safe season for your entire family. You can enjoy the festivities and still keep your children safe. This special holiday

edition of *Parenting Rules!* contains valuable information to help you protect your children while you celebrate.

Holiday Decorations....

- Cans of snow spray may contain chemicals that are toxic if inhaled. Be sure to use these products in a **well ventilated area** to avoid inhaling.
- **Do not** let babies and children chew on foil or colored gift wraps, they may contain lead.
- Fireplace color crystals can look like candy to children; **keep them out of reach** so they will not accidentally ingest them.
- Angel Hair is a holiday decoration made of **thinly spun glass**. Keep out of reach of children as it can cause **throat and intestinal irritation** if swallowed.
- Decorations with candles should be closely supervised and kept out of reach of children. **Blow out all candles when you leave the room.**
- Tree and wreath lights can be a serious fire hazard. Be sure to **unplug all lighted decorations** when leaving the house and/or going to bed.



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Choosing Safe Toys....



Thousands of children are hurt each year by unsafe toys. These injuries often happen because the toys are **not age appropriate, adults are not supervising, or the toys are defective.**

When you shop for toys this holiday season, keep these *guidelines* in mind:

- ⇒ **Choose** toys that are **sturdy** and do not have sharp or pointy edges.
- ⇒ Pay close attention to the **manufacturer's age recommendations**; make sure your child is old enough to play with the toy.
- ⇒ Avoid toys with **cords** that are long enough to **wrap** around a child's neck.
- ⇒ **Read warnings** or other safety information found on the toy's packaging.
- ⇒ Teach your children how to **properly use** their new toys.
- ⇒ ***Toys with small parts can be a choking hazard to young children.***
- ⇒ Check to be sure the toy has **no broken or loose parts**.

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Holiday Shopping....

Americans spend about 15 hours shopping for the holidays. Children who go with their parents on these shopping trips are at a higher risk of injury when their parents are distracted.



Here are some tips that can help you have a safe and happy holiday season:

- ✓ **Never** leave your kids unattended. ***Not even for one second!***
- ✓ Always **hold your child's hand** or carry them through the parking lot.
- ✓ Teach your kids to **ride safely** by standing in the middle of the escalator stair, facing forward and holding the hand rail. ***Never let them run up and down the escalator.***
- ✓ Teach kids to go to a **store employee** if they get separated from you.
- ✓ **Never** allow your children to stand up in or hang on the outside of the shopping cart.
- ✓ **Don't let them play alone** in the toy or video department while you shop.
- ✓ **Always go with them** when they use the public restroom.
- ✓ Check your child for **loose shoe laces, drawstrings or scarves** that can get trapped in the escalator.
- ✓ Teach children to be careful and **watch out for cars** in the parking lot.

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Resources for Families....

To find out if a toy has been recalled due to a safety hazard contact:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Toll-free Consumer Hotline: 800-638-2772 (TTY 800-638-8270).
www.cpsc.gov

For a "Be a Safe Rider" activity book contact:

Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation
362 Pinehill Dr., Mobile, AL 03306
800-949-6442 www.safetrider.org/

To donate or request toys contact:

Toys for Tots Rhode Island
www.toysfortotsri.org

Or one of these agencies:

Women's Resource Center of Newport and Bristol Counties
114 Touro Street, Newport, RI 401-846-5263

West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
392 Cranston Street, Providence, RI 401-453-3220 ext.15

Providence Food Stamp Office
40 Verndale Avenue, Providence, RI 401-861-0161

Warwick Food Stamp Office
195 Buttonwoods Avenue, Warwick, RI 401-823-0335

Providence Journal Company
6 Meadowview Terrace, Westerly, RI 401-867-0070

ABOUT PARENTING RULES! E-NEWS...



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Prevent Child Abuse

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Please share this information with the
families in your programs. Thank you!