

Michael's Place News

MICHEAL'S PLACE OPEN HOUSE

Toy Time Should Mean Joy Time

Always read labels to make sure a toy is appropriate for a child's age. Guidelines published by the CPSC and other groups can help you make those buying decisions. Still, use your own best judgment — and consider your child's temperament, habits, and behavior whenever you buy a new toy.

You may think that a child who's advanced in comparison to peers can handle toys meant for older kids. But the age levels for toys are determined by safety factors, not intelligence or maturity.

Here are some age-specific guidelines to keep in mind:

For Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

- Look for toys that are sturdy enough to withstand pulling and twisting. Make sure that eyes, noses, buttons, and other parts that could break off are securely attached.
- Make sure squeeze toys, rattles, and tethers are large enough that they won't become lodged in a child's mouth or throat, even if squeezed into a smaller compressed shape.
- Avoid toys with cords or long strings, which could present strangulation hazards to young kids.
- Avoid thin plastic toys that might break into small pieces and leave jagged edges that could cut.
- Avoid marbles, coins, balls, and games with balls that are 1.75 inches (4.4 centimeters) in diameter or less

THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

Believe it or not, here we are on the verge of the winter holidays. The upcoming holiday season, more than any other, brings images of family and hope and good cheer. In the next few weeks, try to spend extra time with your children. Help them come to know their family history and gain a sense of who they are. Here are suggestions that may help you fill those many hours of holiday time with your children:

- Sift through old photos and arrange them by the date they were taken.
- If your children are very young, create a family tree with the immediate family. Older children will, of course, understand that a grandmother is also a mother, a daughter, and maybe a sister, an aunt and a wife. This can lead to building the framework for a family tree by listing all the known members and their relationships.
- Young children often assume that everyone celebrates the same holidays in exactly the same manner that they do. It can be a very enriching experience to attend festivals and celebrations of other cultures during the holiday season. Help your children understand and value the differences that make our world rich and varied and interesting. For example, for your older children, you may begin by exploring the differences and similarities between Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.