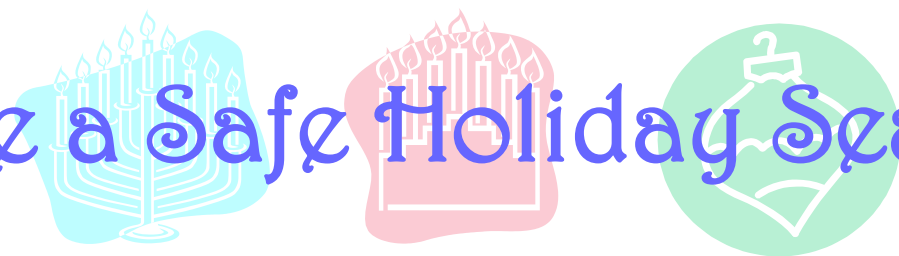


Have a Safe Holiday Season



The holiday season is a fun time for families—and especially for young children—but amid all of the hustle and bustle, it's important to take precautions to make sure that your children stay safe around decorations, gifts, and celebrations.

Child-Proof Your Decorations

- Keep any small, breakable, or sharp items out of your child's reach to prevent choking and cuts.
- If you have a tree, make sure it is securely anchored or weighted to the ground.
- Replace any light strands that have frayed wiring, broken bulbs, or loose connections.
- Make sure that light strands, garlands, etc. are not hung in a way that might cause your child to get caught in them.
- Decorations that look like candy or food may be very tempting to young children. Keep them out of reach so your child doesn't try to "eat" them.
- Mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis could cause a child to become ill if ingested. Keep your child away from these plants.
- Avoid burns and fires by keeping candles up high and away from flammable materials (including drapes and trees). Also, avoid placing candles atop a tablecloth that your child could pull down.

Use Caution With Gifts and Toys

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, and interests of your child. Toys that are too advanced may pose a hazard to young children.
- Don't give young children (under 10) toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet.
- To prevent choking, avoid giving toys and games with small parts to children under 3.
- Keep button batteries and magnets away from young children and call your doctor immediately if your child does swallow one.
- Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.

Celebrate Safely & Happily

- Clean up immediately after a party—if your little one gets up earlier than you, she could choke on leftover food or get into any alcohol or tobacco products left laying around.
- Keep in mind that homes that you visit may not be child-proofed.
- When traveling or hosting guests, try your best to maintain your child's normal routines. The busy holiday season can be stressful for children.

Sources:
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