



SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS MONTH



SAFETY TIPS

- Tip 1 Read & abide by **age recommendations & warnings** on the packaging. Consider child's maturity level
- Tip 2 Select toys that are **well constructed** and show the ASTM approval label on the package.
- Tip 3 **Refrain** from purchasing items with sharp objects/edges or parts that fly off. **Avoid** buying toy guns.
- Tip 4 **Test** all small toys or parts of toys to ensure they are not choking hazards. Take a toilet paper roll and place the toy inside; if it fits, it should be taken away from any child under 3 years of age. Older sibling's toys should also be stored, and played with, away from younger children.
- Tip 5: Provide **proper safety equipment**, recommended by the manufacturer, when using sporting goods or play equipment and make sure the child uses it when playing.
- Tip 6 Check for **recalls** on both new and older toys. Check Safe Kids USA or the Consumer Product Safety Commissions websites. Both websites also offer email alerts that warn of new recalled products.
- Tip 7 **Explain** to the child the proper way to use each toy and **inspect** them **often** to ensure that nothing is broken or loose. Remove any toy that is broken until it is properly fixed or discard if it is unfixable.
- Tip 8 **Supervise playtime** to ensure that your child is using toys in the correct manner. This supervision is especially important for craft supplies such as scissors, glue and pencils.

http://www.ehow.com/how_2265584_observe-safe-toys-gifts-month.html?ref=fuel&utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=ssp&utm_campaign=yssp_art

- ⇒ Choking is a **risk** for kids ages 3 or younger, because they tend to put objects in their mouths.
- ⇒ Toys made of fabric should be labeled as flame resistant or flame retardant
- ⇒ Stuffed toys should be washable.
- ⇒ Painted toys should be covered with lead-free paint.
- ⇒ Art materials should say nontoxic.
- ⇒ Crayons and paints should say ASTM D-4236 on the package, which means that they've been evaluated by the American Society for Testing and Materials.



World AIDS Day



Since 1995 the [President of the United States](#) has made an official [proclamation](#) on World AIDS Day. **World AIDS Day** is observed **December 1st** each year and is dedicated to raising awareness of the [AIDS pandemic](#) caused by the spread of [HIV](#) infection. *2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day.* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_AIDS_Day

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system-the body's defence against diseases. A person infected with HIV may not have symptoms to start with, but eventually without effective treatment the immune system will become very weak and they will no longer be able to fight off illnesses. Awareness and prevention go hand in hand. Help us to prevent the spread of HIV and get people talking by making the red ribbon visible. <http://www.worldaidsday.org>



The red ribbon has been an international symbol of HIV for 15 years. Wear one with pride for World AIDS Day to show your support for the **40 million people** living with HIV worldwide.

AIDS has killed millions of people and many more people are living with HIV which makes it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history.

***Happy Holidays from
your GMS Counselors!***

Mrs. P. Dunn, Counselor
ext. 2918
Grades 8 & 6th Pioneer

Mrs. D. Hammonds, Counselor
ext. 2919
Grades 7 & 6th Explorers

Upcoming Events

January 20, 2009
Multicultural Program