



Are Your Kids' Christmas Gifts Safe?

How to Prevent Injuries and Stay Ahead of Trouble

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MIDLAND, Texas (BIG2/FOX24) - Many parents are on a mission this holiday to check off toys on their kids' Christmas lists.

However, experts say to take a moment to inspect what is getting into their hands.

According to Consumer Product Safety Commission, there was close to 200,000 injuries and seven deaths caused by toys in 2016. Many of these items were fire or choking hazards that lead to recalls and parents heading to hospitals with their kids.

Dr. Bose of Medical Center Hospital says while parents tend to have a good safety radar, even the most experienced parents may overlook the warnings.

"No matter what the injury is, what the illness is, the common theme is that they did not expect to be there that day in the emergency room," said Bose. "And the way parents can prevent an unexpected trip to the emergency room for a child from a toy injury is, not only following that radar, but you know, what happens when you open the packaging, what happens when the older sibling gets a hold of it, or what happens a day, or two, or week down the road."

He says the most common issues he sees are injuries from packaging, choking from small parts and improper use or handling of toys.

Founder of Permian Kids, Summer Belloni, says her children's safety is top priority.

"It would be terrible to feel that something I purchased for my child would've caused a problem," explained Belloni. "So I would hope that before it ever got to the shelf, that there would be safe guard in place that would protect our kids."

However, Belloni says perhaps a new approach to play-time may be a better option.

"Do we want to have all sorts of toys with electronics anymore? Is it the best thing to be buying kids devices and video type things? Or should we be sort of going back to classic toys that we grew up with."

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