



Tips for Lead-Safe Toys

- ◆ **Lead has been found in the paint on some toys and children’s products. In addition, lead is sometimes found in toys and children’s products made of metal, vinyl, and other plastics.**
Some examples include: soft plastic items, vinyl lunch boxes, children’s jewelry, metal charms, and hard plastic toys.
- ◆ **Be more careful about older toys and inexpensive imported toys, including ones from yard sales, second-hand stores, flea markets and “dollar” stores.**
Few toys are tested for lead. Some toys were made in times and places with less regulation of lead.
- ◆ **Make sure art supplies have an Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) non-toxic seal.**
- ◆ **Check recall lists (e.g., www.recalls.gov, www.cpsc.gov) for toys you are considering buying.**
Return recalled toys to the manufacturer or the store where purchased. Be aware of other toy hazards, such as small pieces (choking), sharp edges (cuts), small batteries (choking or burns if swallowed), and small powerful magnets (intestinal injuries if swallowed).
- ◆ **To avoid lead hazards, consider creative toy alternatives. Choose age-appropriate toys.**
See the other side for safer toy ideas. Check toy packaging for recommended age.
- ◆ **Examine toys for signs of wear, especially if your child mouths, bites, or chews toys.**
Signs of wear include bite marks, chips or breaks in the painted surface, fading or sun damage.
- ◆ **Wash toys regularly to clean off household dust.**
Homes built before 1978 may have lead-based paint. Homes near busy roadways, in older neighborhoods, or near industry may have lead-contaminated soil. Toys can pick up lead dust in homes with deteriorating or damaged lead-based paint or with lead-contaminated soil.
- ◆ **Get informed about the uses and limitations of home lead testing kits.**
When testing toys with color-change lead test kits available at hardware and paint stores, positive test results are most likely positive. Remove any toys that test positive. However, negative test results for toys may be unreliable. Color-change kits only test what is on the surface and may not indicate lead even if it is present.
- ◆ **Learn about other sources of lead.**
The most common source of lead for young children is the lead found in household dust from contaminated soil or when old paint is in poor condition or disturbed during home renovation projects. This dust gets on hands and toys that find their way into a young child’s mouth. Lead comes in many other forms besides paint, dust and soil — for example, fishing sinkers, glazes for pottery, and some home remedies.
- ◆ **A blood test is the only way to know if your child has been exposed to lead.**
Ask your child’s doctor for a simple blood test or call your local health department for assistance.



**For more information, contact Los Angeles County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
1-800-LA-4-LEAD (1-800-524-5323) www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lead**

Adapted from materials developed by Get the LEAD Out, a Bay Area Coalition of Lead Poisoning Prevention Leaders (www.getleadout.org) and Contra Costa Lead Poisoning Prevention Project



Safer Toy Ideas

One of the most important factors to consider when evaluating the safety of children’s toys is the age and developmental stage of the child. Please look at the following toy ideas grouped by age. Be creative and as lead-safe as possible.



Newborns 0—3 months	Toddlers 1—3 years	School Age 6—9 years
<p>Newborns do not need toys. It is recommended that their cribs be kept clear of heavy blankets, stuffed animals and other items to minimize the risk of suffocation</p>	<p>Age-appropriate soft toys Fabric rocking horse Books Finger puppets Balls Nesting blocks Finger paints</p>	<p>Books Games (dominoes, chess, checkers, Monopoly, Scrabble) Craft supplies & teaching time (knitting, embroidery, water colors) Sleeping bags for sleepovers Bicycle & helmet Skateboard & safety equipment Skates & safety equipment Sports equipment Musical instruments (inexpensive wood flutes, drums) Playing cards Stickers & sticker books Collections (sports cards, marbles, rocks) CDs of age-appropriate music Inexpensive camera to record family events Albums to save pictures , memorabilia Computer games, age-appropriate Microscope or science kits, age-appropriate Classes or lessons (cooking, art, dance, music, science, sewing, horseback riding) Binoculars for bird watching School supplies Hair ornaments Party for friends</p>
Infants 4— 6 months	Preschool 4—5 years	
<p>Infant mirror Cloth books Soothing music Cloth stretch toy Cloth mobiles Cloth rattles</p>	<p>Games Puzzles Books Jump ropes, balls, hula hoops Funny pillows for their room Tricycle & helmet Beginner skates & safety gear Sports equipment Costumes for dress-up Coloring books and crayons Field trips to the fire or police station, bakery, candy factory Library card/regular trips to the library Making salt dough ornaments Baking cookies</p>	
Infants 6—12 months		
<p>Cloth blocks Tummy time mat</p>		

Activities for the Entire Family

Time together is the most important gift!

- ◆ sports activities ◆ hikes ◆ outings to the zoo, aquarium, museums ◆ picnic at a local park ◆ concert or other event tickets
- ◆ bus pass & movie tickets ◆ family movie nights ◆ membership in family fitness classes, YMCA, YWCA ◆ a drive to the snow or to the beach ◆ garden gifts, like trees, bulbs, herbs or flowers to plant together ◆ pet obedience classes with the family dog
- ◆ donating time together at a food bank, “soup kitchen”, beach clean-up or tree planting ◆ gift certificates for family activities ◆



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**



