

Physicians at Atrium Health Navicent Offer Tips for Toy and Gift Safety

Toys should be age-appropriate to reduce risk of injury

MACON, Ga., Dec. 10, 2024 – One of the most magical moments of the holiday season is watching as children smile in delight while unwrapping toys and gifts. Pediatricians at [Atrium Health Levine Children's Beverly Knight Olson Children's Hospital](#) encourage gift givers to exercise caution when selecting presents for young children.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in 2023 there were 10 deaths and more than 154,700 toy-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms among children ages 12 and younger. The majority of the deaths reported were attributed to choking on small balls or crayons and drownings linked to flotation toys. Among the emergency room-treated injuries, non-motorized scooters accounted for the largest share of injuries across all age groups. Non-motorized scooters accounted for 1 in every 5 toy-related injuries to children ages 14 and younger.

Pediatricians at Atrium Health Levine Children's offer the following tips for shoppers:

- Look for age-appropriate labels on toys. The toy should suit the age and individual skills and abilities of the child who will receive it, especially if the recipient is younger than 3 years old.
- Take note of safety warnings, information and labels.
- Avoid toys that shoot, have parts that fly off, have points or sharp edges.
- Make sure that toys are not too loud and will not cause hearing damage if the child holds it to their ear.
- Choose sturdy toys that will not break easily.
- Choose crayons and markers that are designated “nontoxic.”
- Toys made with fabric should be labeled as flame resistant or flame retardant. Plush toys should be washable.
- Include protective equipment with sporting equipment. For example, give a helmet and protective padding when gifting a bicycle or skates.
- Toys with magnets and button batteries may cause serious injury or death if swallowed. Do not give gifts that contain these or any small parts to children younger than 3 years old.
- Keep small balls and toys with small parts away from children younger than age 3, and keep deflated balloons away from children younger than age 8.
- Avoid toys with ropes, cords and heating elements.
- Once gifts are open, immediately discard plastic wrappings or other packaging before they become dangerous playthings.
- Show your children how to use the toy safely, and always supervise children as they play.

“While shopping, be sure to check the recommended age for a gift and consider the age of the recipient,” said [Dr. Edward Clark](#), medical director for [Atrium Health Navicent Children's Care Downtown Macon](#). “If you're gifting sports equipment, or something like a bike or a scooter, be sure to also include protective equipment to ensure the fun doesn't have to stop because of a preventable injury.”

If an emergency situation does arise, the [Pediatric Emergency Center](#) at Atrium Health Levine Children's was designed specifically for children and families, and is staffed by board-certified pediatric specialists. Located at 888 Pine Street in Macon, care is available 24 hours a day.

About Atrium Health Navicent

Atrium Health Navicent is the leading provider of health care in central and south Georgia and is committed to its mission of elevating health and well-being through compassionate care. Atrium Health Navicent is part of [Advocate Health](#), which is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is the third-largest nonprofit health system in the United States, created from the combination of Atrium Health and Advocate Aurora Health. Atrium Health Navicent provides high-quality, personalized care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region. As part of the largest, integrated, nonprofit health system in the Southeast, it is also able to tap into some of the nation's leading medical experts and specialists with Atrium Health, allowing it to provide the best care close to home – including advanced innovations in virtual medicine and care. Throughout its 125-year history in the community, Atrium Health Navicent has remained dedicated to enhancing health and wellness for individuals throughout the region through nationally

recognized quality care, community health initiatives and collaborative partnerships. It is also one of the leading teaching hospitals in the region, helping to ensure viability for rural health care for the next generation. For more information, please visit www.NavicentHealth.org.

About Advocate Health

[Advocate Health](#) is the third-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the United States – created from the combination of Advocate Aurora Health and [Atrium Health](#). Providing care under the names [Advocate Health Care](#) in Illinois, Atrium Health in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, and [Aurora Health Care](#) in Wisconsin, Advocate Health is a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Advocate Health services nearly 6 million patients and is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies, with [Wake Forest University School of Medicine](#) serving as the academic core of the enterprise. It is nationally recognized for its expertise in cardiology, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. Advocate Health employs 155,000 teammates across 69 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations and offers one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs with over 2,000 residents and fellows across more than 200 programs. Committed to providing equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides more than \$6 billion in annual community benefits.

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