

CHILDCARE NEWSLETTER

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Safer Toys and Children's Products

In July, lawmakers in the United States passed the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 in response to increased concern over the safety of toys and products used to care for children. On August 14, 2008, President Bush signed the sweeping new consumer legislation to make toys and common consumer products safer and to support the role of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

What does the law say?

Among other consumer safety issues, the law requires that toys and infant products be tested before they are sold. Toy manufacturers will be required to follow new rules to make toys safer. The law sets new lower levels for lead and phthalates, new safety standards and test procedures, testing and certification for children's products that come from other countries and new labeling for safety and product registration. An Internet database where consumers can find out information about dangerous products will also be created.

When does the law take effect?

Mandates will be phased in over time with changes starting in late 2008. Consumers will begin to see changes in labeling and third party testing in 2009. Items that do not meet the standards as they are phased

in will be considered hazardous and it will be illegal to sell them. Since the reforms are complex and have a large scope, it may be some time before the full impact of the law is seen.

What does this law mean for child care providers?

It's important for Early Care and Education (ECE) professionals to be cautious about the safety of toys and products used in child care programs. These new reforms should take some of the guesswork out of choosing safe items.

*Information obtained from
<http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org>*

Safety tips for toys and products:

- Choose toys that are developmentally appropriate
- Check labels for product testing, certification and warnings
- Use caution with second-hand toys and equipment
- Pay attention to product recalls; the Consumer Product Safety Commission maintains a Toy Hazard Recalls list. Look for toys and products manufactured after the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

POISON PREVENTION

The winter Holiday Season is a time for celebration, but also a time when accidental poisonings can occur. When preparing for the holiday season, keep in mind seasonal plants (poinsettias and mistletoe), decorations, gifts, parties, food safety and holiday visitors with medications.

If you suspect an accidental poisoning, call your regional poison center hotline immediately: 1-800-222-1222

Find more poisoning prevention information, tips and your regional poison control center at the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

*Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration.*



STRESS BUSTER TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- Eat well (real food, not just sweets & fats) and exercise. Kids do better when they have nutritious foods.
- Get enough rest; this helps with stress, and also helps keep appetites in control (not to mention happy attitudes!)
- Kids may need extra rest with all the holiday activities.
- Set priorities for spending and activities. Ask yourself what is REALLY important.
- Be realistic about relationships. If we don't get along well with relatives through the year, why would we get along perfectly during the holidays?
- Let go of past disappointments and create new ways to celebrate.
- Start a new family tradition. It can be simple and low/no cost.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CHILDCARE CENTERS FOR HAVING 100% COMPLIANCE ON THEIR FIRST IMMUNIZATION AUDIT VISIT!

A-Zanipolo
Bethel Baptist
Blackburn
Bryant
Child's Play
Creative World, Countryside
Fort Osage Early Childhood
Hawthorne Early Childhood
Learning Center

Kid's Kastle
Luff
Messiah Lutheran
Nativity
North Rock Creek
Procter
Santa Fe
St. Paul's Precious Lambs
Sugar Creek

Sunshine Center-Salisbury
Three Trails
Bobbie's Daycare
Cathy Bullard Child Care
Kendra's Kids
Little Ponies Preschool
Marla K Butler Child Care
Patti Thee Child Care
Sandy Willis Child Care

Freedom From Smoking



Are you thinking of quitting? Do you want 2009 to be the year you became free from tobacco?

Then join our Freedom From Smoking classes beginning Tuesdays or Thursdays in January. Classes last an hour and meet once a week for 8 weeks.

Call the Independence Health Department at 816-325-7185 to sign up or for more information.

Spotlight on you

**Do you have a fun
program or activity
that you would like
to share?**

**Call 325-7204 and
we will print your
program in an
upcoming
newsletter.**