

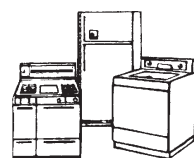
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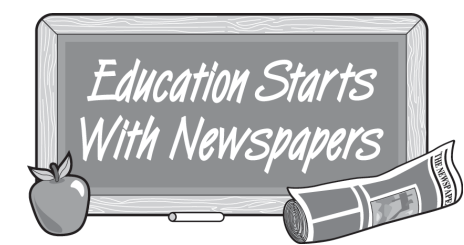
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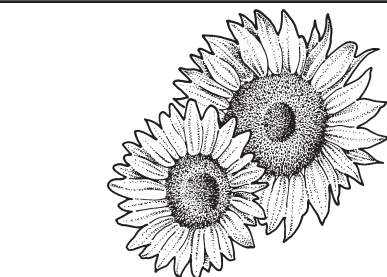


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Keys to a Happy & Safe Holiday season

Tips for a worry-free Christmas

Holiday lighting

- Inspect lights for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets. Do not overload extension cords. Use no more than three strings of lights on one extension cord, and never run an electrical cord under a carpet.
- Keep burning candles out of children's reach; keep matches and lighters out of sight and locked away.
- Do not place candles near draperies or anything that might catch fire. If you build a fire, use a fireplace screen and do not leave young children alone in the room. Make sure you put out fires and candles when you go to bed or leave the home.
- Install smoke alarms in your home on every level and in every sleeping area. Test alarms once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year. Home fires and home fire-related deaths are more likely during the cold-weather months.

Christmas trees

- Buy a fresh tree because they are less likely to catch fire.

- Keep the tree in a container full of water, and check daily.
- Use a wide-based stand to make sure the tree is secure and will not fall over.
- Cover the tree basin with a tree skirt or blanket.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators and heating vents.
- Cut back the lower branches to avoid eye injuries to small children.
- Decorate the tree with children in mind. Do not put ornaments that are breakable, have small detachable parts or metal hooks or look like food or candy on the lower branches.
- Never burn tree branches, treated wood or wrapping paper in your fireplace.
- Buy a fire-resistant artificial tree.

Holiday foods, drinks and ornaments

- Keep round, hard foods and candies such as candy cane pieces, mints, nuts and popcorn out of reach of young children.
- Keep small ornaments, tinsel, small figurines and other decorations away from children's reach.
- Keep alcoholic drinks and containers out

of reach. Holiday beverages such as eggnog laced with alcohol may be sweet and inviting to young children. Do not leave alcoholic drinks unattended.

- Keep common baking ingredients such as vanilla and almond extracts out of reach. They contain high levels of alcohol and may be harmful to young children.

Poisons

- Open the flue in your fireplace when burning wood to provide adequate ventilation. The risk of carbon monoxide poisoning increases dramatically in the winter. Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
- Beware of fire salts used in fireplaces to produce colored flames. They contain heavy metals and cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten.
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach. Watch for holly and mistletoe berries that fall on the ground, because they are poisonous. Other poisonous holiday plants include amaryllis, azalea, boxwood, Christmas rose, Crown of Thorns, English ivy and Jerusalem cherry.
- Avoid using artificial snow sprays to decorate.

— Kansas Safe Kids Coalition

toy story



*Follow age recommendations
when buying gifts for children*

Infants under age 1

- The most suitable toys for the first year include activity quilts, stuffed animals without button noses and eyes, bath toys, soft dolls, baby swings, cloth books and squeaky toys.

Children ages 1 to 3

- The best toys are books, blocks, fit-together toys, balls, push-and-pull toys, pounding toys and shape toys.

Children ages 3 to 5

- The most suitable toys are approved non-toxic art supplies, books, videos, musical instruments and outdoor toys such as a baseball tee, slide or swing.

Children ages 5 to 9

- Recommended toys include craft materials, jump ropes, puppets, books, electric trains (after age 8) and sports equipment. Remember, children ages 8 and up can begin to use electrical and battery-operated toys. Check

tape recorders and battery-operated toys regularly for loose or exposed wires. Don't allow children to change batteries.

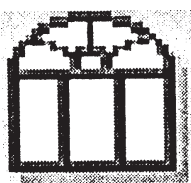
Children ages 9 to 14

- Appropriate gifts include computers, microscopes, table and board games and team sports equipment. Ensure that older children's toys are kept out of reach of younger children, for whom they may present a danger.

— Kansas Safe Kids Coalition



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