



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Ashley Gramann

**Phone:** 618-651-2588

**Email:** [Ashley.Gramann@hshs.org](mailto:Ashley.Gramann@hshs.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

Check children's holiday toy list twice before purchasing gifts  
*Top 10 toy safety tips*

**HIGHLAND**— When shopping for holiday gifts this Black Friday, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland and HSHS Medical Group encourage you to prioritize safety over popularity. While it may be exciting and enticing to purchase the latest and greatest toy or gadget, it is important to remember to check the safety and age-range of the toy.

“When choosing a toy for a child, it is important to recognize the toy's intended age group.” Kelsie Ferrell, APRN, HSHS Medical Group family nurse practitioner. “All toys have age ranges printed on the packaging because they are designed for different stages of development. Some toys may be too complex for younger children or contain small parts that could cause choking injuries,” she said. “For older children, it is also important they know how to play with these toys safely.”

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital Highland and HSHS Medical Group encourage parents and loved ones to follow these tips from [healthychildren.org](http://healthychildren.org) on how to buy safe toys:

1. **Read the label.** Warning labels give important information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is safe for.
2. **Think LARGE.** Make sure all toys and parts are larger than the child's mouth to prevent choking.
3. **Avoid toys that shoot objects into the air.** They can cause serious eye injuries or choking.
4. **Avoid toys that are loud** to prevent damage to child's hearing.
5. **Look for stuffed toys that are well made.** Make sure all the seams and edges are secured. It should also be machine washable.
6. **Buy plastic toys that are sturdy.** Toys made from thin plastic may break easily into sharp pieces.
7. **Avoid toys with toxic materials that could cause poisoning.** Make sure the label says “nontoxic.”

8. **Avoid hobby kits and chemistry sets for any child younger than 12 years.** They can cause fires or explosions and may contain dangerous chemicals. Make sure the older child knows how to safely handle these kinds of toys.
9. **Electronic toys should be “UL Approved.”** This indicates the toy meets industry safety standards. Check the label to be sure.
10. **Look out for toys with small batteries or loose magnets.** If they get loose, younger children might be tempted to put them in their mouths, noses or ears, which can cause serious injuries.

To learn more about toy safety, visit [cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/toys#resources](https://cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/toys#resources).

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### **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high-quality Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to our patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our physician practices and 15 local hospitals in two states – Illinois (Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, O'Fallon, Shelbyville and Springfield) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Oconto Falls, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). HSHS is sponsored by Hospital Sisters Ministries, and [Hospital Sisters of St. Francis](https://www.hospital-sisters.org/) is the founding institute. For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](https://www.hshs.org). For more information about Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, visit [www.hospital-sisters.org](https://www.hospital-sisters.org).