



AGE GRADING MATTERS



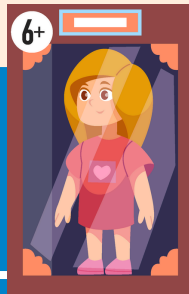
Ensure safe play through informed toy selections for kids



WHAT ARE AGE LABELS & WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Age-grading isn't about how smart your child is —

it's safety guidance based on the developmental skills and abilities of children at a given age, and the specific features of a toy.



SAFETY TIP!

Always check — **and follow** — the age recommendation on toys. It can protect a child from preventable injuries!



SAFETY TIP!



Pay special attention to **toys labeled 3+**. Toys labeled for older children may contain small parts that pose a choking risk or other hazard to kids under age 3 and those who mouth items.



Keep a separate toy chest for older kids whose toys may contain small parts. Enlist their help in keeping their toys out of the hands of younger siblings. They love the responsibility that comes with being a “big kid.”

Other Small Object Hazards

Other small objects found around the home (like batteries, magnets, buttons, coins, paperclips, hair accessories, etc.) can also be a hazard to children under age 3 and kids who still tend to put objects in their mouths. An easy way to check whether an object is too small to safely give your child is to use a federally-approved tool called a **Small Parts Tester**!

The Small Parts Tester's cylinder mimics the size, shape, and specific features of a child's throat (1.25 inches in diameter). **How it works:** Place the object (without forcing it) into the cylinder. If it fits entirely, it's a choking hazard. Small Parts Testers are sold on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).



SAFETY TIP!

Regularly sort through the toy box and discard any broken toys. Broken pieces may create choking hazards.

