



DOWNTOWN SANTA BARBARA EMPLOYER CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2008

*“More than two
in three
Americans
favor
government
funded child
care to make it
easier for
people to
work*.”*

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Employee Child Care Project Update

This year has been a monumental year for the Downtown Santa Barbara Employer Child Care Partnership thanks to all of your effort and support.

It was no little task to establish a public private partnership of 23 employers, survey nearly 3000 employees, and conduct parent employee focus groups.

The Partnership's interest in examining the impact child care

issues have on the work place has created an unprecedented opportunity to positively impact children's health and well-being, family stability, work place morale and productivity, as well as business bottom line in Santa Barbara.

The Partnership looks forward to embarking on the next steps necessary to establish downtown Santa Barbara as an economic

and family friendly place to live and work.



Safe Toy Shopping Guide

Have questions about which toys are safe for your kids? Here's a quick checklist from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) of what to look for before you make your holiday purchases.

Fabric and stuffed toys: Materials should be washable and flame resistant. Eyes, buttons, etc. should be firmly secured.

Electric toys: Any toy with a power source should be labeled UL, complying with safety standards for minimized shock and burn risks. Batteries should be secured and locked to avoid choking and poisoning hazards. Avoid long cords, which may pose strangulation risks.

Art supplies: Crayons and paints should be marked 'ASTM D-4236'. All materials should be non-toxic.

Plastic toys: All plastic toys should be avoided when possible. CPSC warns that trendy 'Phthalate free' toys could result in weaker or more brittle plastics which present breaking and choking hazards. 'Phthalate free' products may also contain untested alternative chemicals. Plastic toys- like all products for children- should be free of lead paints.

Outdoor toys: If purchasing a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or skates, read age guidelines. Purchase helmets and other safety gear like hand, wrist and shin guards which meet safety guidelines and are marked with CPSC or Snell certification labels.

Age-Appropriate Toys: Use labeling on toys as guidelines for the appropriate toys for your child's age. Age levels are determined by the CPSC based on

safety – a child's maturity or intelligence does not mean he is safe with toys meant for older children.

Recall Information and Reporting Unsafe Toys: For the latest product safety and recall information, check the CPSC website. Call their hotline at (800) 638-CPSC to report a product hazard or a related injury.

This guide is intended as a courtesy and is not a substitute for additional research, parental responsibility, or supervision of children's play.

Article retrieved from <http://www.childsafetytaskforce.org/child-safety-task-force-safe-toy-shopping-guide/>.

For more information go to www.childsafetytaskforce.org.

* http://www.rockfound.org/index_CAW_bm.shtml