



Jackson County Department of Public Health

Anna Lippard
Interim Health Director
828-587-8225

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SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY OFFER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

It's that time of year again when we enjoy festive meals with family and friends, deck our halls with colorful decorations and listen to squeals of delight as our children open their brightly-wrapped presents. To help ensure your kids have fun and stay safe this holiday, here are a few tips to remember.

Decorate your tree with your kids in mind. Kids are curious and will want to play with the ornaments on the tree, so you might as well prepare. Move the ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks towards the top of the tree. That makes room at the bottom for the ones that are safer for young kids.

Water live trees regularly. Natural trees look beautiful and smell great, but if they're not watered regularly, needles can dry out and pose a potential fire hazard. Make sure your tree has plenty of water by checking it regularly.

Check the lights. Lights are one of the best parts of holiday decorating. Take a look at the ones on your tree and in and around your home for exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.

Find the perfect toy for the right age. Consider your child's age when purchasing a toy or game this holiday season. It's worth a second to read the instructions and warning labels to make sure the gift is just right. Before you've settled on the perfect toy, check to make sure there aren't any small parts or other potential choking hazards.

Keep button batteries away from young kids. Keep a special eye on small pieces, including button batteries that may be included in electronic toys. While these kinds of games are great for older kids, they can pose a potential danger for younger, curious siblings.

Don't forget a helmet for new bikes or other toys. If your child's heart is set on a bike, skateboard or scooter this holiday season, be sure to include a helmet to keep them safe while they're having fun.

Safe Kids Jackson County wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on Safe Kids Jackson County visit <http://health.jacksonnc.org/safe-kids-jackson-county> or call Martha Thomasson, Coordinator, at 828-587-8257.

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