



Attention Parents: Noisy Toys May Cause Hearing Damage!



The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) in partnership with the Elks of Canada and Royal Purple of Canada would like to alert parents to the potential dangers of noisy toys as they contemplate buying toys for their children during this upcoming holiday shopping season.

One in ten Canadians has a speech, language, or hearing disorder which hinders his/her capacity to communicate. It is critical for parents to be aware of the potential dangers of noisy toys to help ensure that their child's hearing is not at risk.

Toys that emit a noise level over 100 dBA are banned by Health Canada under the Hazardous Products Act. Health Canada follows very strict guidelines and we applaud their efforts, however, research and real-life experience shows that children often bring toys close to their faces and ears as part of their learning. This can increase the risk of harm to their small and sensitive ears if the toy was designed to be held further away from the body during play.

Very loud noises such as those from a whistle or toy cap gun can instantly and permanently damage a child's hearing if held too close to the ear. CASLPA would like to advise parents to consider these safety tips when buying toys:

Noisy Toys Safety Tips



- Limit playtime with noisy toys.
- Choose toys with an on/off button.
- Choose toys with a volume control.
- Listen to the toy before making a purchase.
- Teach children the proper way to play with their toys.
- Purchase quiet toys such as books which promote language and literacy.

Rule of Thumb: If you have to raise your voice above the noise level of the toy to be heard, the noise is too loud.

Warning signs of hearing loss in children include:

- Delay in speech and language acquisition
- Does not respond to sounds or when called
- Often needs things repeated
- Speaks loudly or turns up the volume of the TV, radio, etc.
- Does not understand someone unless he/she is facing them



If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, contact an audiologist! Audiologists are essential members of the health care team who are trained to evaluate and treat a full range of hearing disorders.

There are over 1,100 audiologists working in Canada.

For more information about noisy toys prevention, please contact Chantal Lalonde, CASLPA Manager of Audiology and Supportive Personnel at 1-800-259-8519, ext. 233, or by email at Chantal@caslpa.ca. Find out more about the Elks and Royal Purple at www.elks-canada.org