Making a List, Checking it Twice…

Play is important for children. Pretend play builds vocabularies and character, while active play builds muscles and cooperative skills. Playing games builds skills of patience and strategy. So as you make your shopping list for holiday gifts this year, be conscious to select toys that encourage these elements. Keep in mind that the more the toy does, the less the child does. If a toy has lights, sounds, actions, pieces and parts, there become fewer opportunities for a child to use his or her imagination.

Here are some gift suggestions we have for this holiday season:

- Inside play tents or playhouses
- Swing set
- Bouncing ball (Exercise ball)
- Rocking horse
- Scooter
- Spin & Move Toy
- Crawling tunnel
- Trampoline
- Play dough or Silly Putty
- Touch & Read books (various textures on pages)
- Bubbles
- Board games (Connect 4, Topple, Ants in the Pants, Jenga)
- Shape sorters
- LEGOS or building blocks
- Puzzles (Connect the dots, Word searches, Mazes, Jigsaw)
- A doll (that neither talks nor performs bodily functions)
- Action figures (animals, people, Super Heroes)
- Toy cars & truck

Toys can encourage your child to develop new skills, but noisy toys can damage hearing. Take time to inspect toys for noise danger, just as you would look for small pieces that can be easily swallowed. Be aware of cap guns, talking dolls, vehicles with horns and sirens, walkie talkies, toys with cranks and musical instruments, which can all potentially be harmful to hearing.