

## CE marking – What is it?

The CE mark is a mark applied to all toys sold within the EU, It is the toy's passport mark to say that it conforms to the standards needed to be sold. It is not a quality mark, or a certification, it is just a mark to say that the toy meets the minimum standards set out in the EN71 (the regulations for toys)



Every toy needs one to be sold legally in the EU but the CE mark is also applied to many other things like medical and electrical devices, as they too need to pass standards before they can be sold (under different rules and tests of course!)

### Here are 7 tips for buying great gifts for the younger set:

**1. Select age-appropriate toys:** Be sure to buy gifts that are safe and appropriate for the child's age, ability, and development level. The National Association for the Education of Young Children of has a guide to toys by "age and stage"



**2. Use common sense:** Don't buy toys or gifts with sharp edges, tiny pieces, or moving parts, especially for very young children. If it looks poorly made or flimsy, put it back. Additionally, never give gifts that include ropes, cords or heating elements.



**3. Check the label:** Toys that have been screened for safety will have a CE Mark this ensures that the product has been checked for toxicity and includes all important safety warnings.



**4. Avoid antique toys:** You can find all kinds of neat things at car boot sales and second hand shops, but be careful with old or antique toys. Some older toys may contain lead or toxic paints, or may not be approved by modern toy safety standards.



**5. Remove wrappers and packaging:** Remove extra tags, bags, ribbons, or any other packaging that may present a choking hazard for small children. Discard all unnecessary wrappers and packaging after opening gifts and toys.



**6. Give safety equipment:** If you're gifting a bike or a skateboard, add a helmet as part of the package. Similarly, include corresponding safety gear when giving any type of sports equipment.



**7. When the big day arrives:** Be sure to monitor children as they unwrap gifts and begin to try them out. Clear away ribbon and wrapping paper quickly to avoid choking or fire hazards. Remove tags and stickers, read all instructions and assemble toys properly before allowing children to play freely.



# Merry Christmas

