



# Village of Skokie

December 8, 2011

## **For Immediate Release** **Public Information Division**

### **Holiday Safety Tips Regarding Children and Food Safety**

The holidays are an exciting time of year for children and families. To help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are just a few tips from the Skokie Fire and Police Departments as published in the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) regarding toy, food and visiting safety:

#### **Toy Safety**

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Keep batteries and magnets away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.
- Children under age eight can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.
- Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length.
- Parents should store toys in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids' toys away from young children.

#### **Food Safety**

- Wash your hands frequently, and make sure your children do the same.
- Bacteria are often present in raw foods. Fully cook meats and poultry, and thoroughly wash raw vegetables and fruits.
- Be sure to keep hot liquids and foods away from the edges of counters and tables, where they can be easily knocked over by a young child's exploring hands.
- Never put a spoon used to taste food back into food without washing it.
- Always thaw meat in the refrigerator, never on the countertop.
- Foods that require refrigeration should never be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

#### **Happy Visiting**

- Remember that the homes you visit may not be childproofed. Keep an eye out for danger spots and clean up immediately after a holiday party.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers you or babysitters are likely to need in case of an emergency. Include the police and fire department, your pediatrician and the national Poison Help Line, 1/800-222-1222.
- Maintaining your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules and timing of naps, can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

For more information or additional safety tips please contact the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

Released by Public Information Division  
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#### *Council-Manager Government*

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#### *Awards and Distinctions*

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(APWA) Accreditation

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Bond Rating

Gold Level Clean Air Counts  
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Government Finance Officers  
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Government Finance Officers  
Association Certificate of  
Achievement for Excellence in  
Financial Reporting

Insurance Services Office (ISO)  
Class One Fire Department

State of Illinois Certified Health  
Department

Tree City U.S.A. Distinction