



Attention:

Experts warn of Noisy Toys!



The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA) urges the government to include further study on noise as it relates to toy safety and revise current legislation.

Health Canada's Hazardous Products Act needs to be revised.

In light of the discussion and public and governmental concern surrounding toy safety, CASLPA stresses that noise levels in toys should be considered as an equally important part of this issue.

In Canada, responsibility for toy safety is shared among governments, the toy industry, safety associations, parents and caregivers. Any toy advertised, sold or imported in Canada must meet the safety requirements defined in the Hazardous Products Act and the Hazardous Products (Toys) Regulations.

The current Hazardous Products Act bans toys emitting noise levels exceeding 100 dB, a level that is too high and must be revised. This Act does not take into account the typical use of toys. It measures noise levels at the distance that a toy is "ordinarily" intended to be from a child's ear. However, we know that children often hold their toys much closer to the ear and face than the distance specified in the current law's measurement protocol.

It is also important that toy makers and distributors ensure their toys meet Health Canada's product safety regulations.

It is essential for parents to know that noisy toys have the potential to harm their children's hearing and CASLPA would like to work with Health Canada to address and promote this important toy safety message

CASLPA offers these toy safety tips :

- 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
- Limit playtime with noisy toys



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.
If it's too loud for you – it's too loud for your child.

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

For more information, please contact Angie D'Aoust, CASLPA manager of communications at 1-800-259-8519, ext. 241, or by email at angie@caslpa.ca.