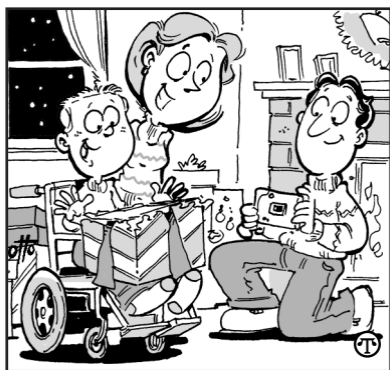


# HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

## Tips On Toys

(NAPSA)—Here's help for holiday shoppers: While most people know to check what age a youngster should be to play with a toy, not everyone knows there may be other challenges when giving a gift to someone living with Spina Bifida, a birth defect of the spine.



**Gift givers may get some surprises making sure the toys they present are safe for all children.**

Children with Spina Bifida cannot enjoy many mass-marketed toys due to hazardous allergies to latex, a natural product from the sap of rubber trees. This means children with Spina Bifida should have latex-free toys. Fortunately, some toy manufacturers produce items containing latex alternatives such as silicone, plastic and vinyl.

Before buying a toy, read any package information and check with the salespeople whether the items contain natural rubber latex. If they don't know, you may need to consult the manufacturer.

For a list of companies that make toys without latex or for more information on latex allergies, visit [www.latexallergylinks.org](http://www.latexallergylinks.org).

To learn more about Spina Bifida, visit the Spina Bifida Association at [www.spinabifidaassociation.org](http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org) or call (800) 621-3141.