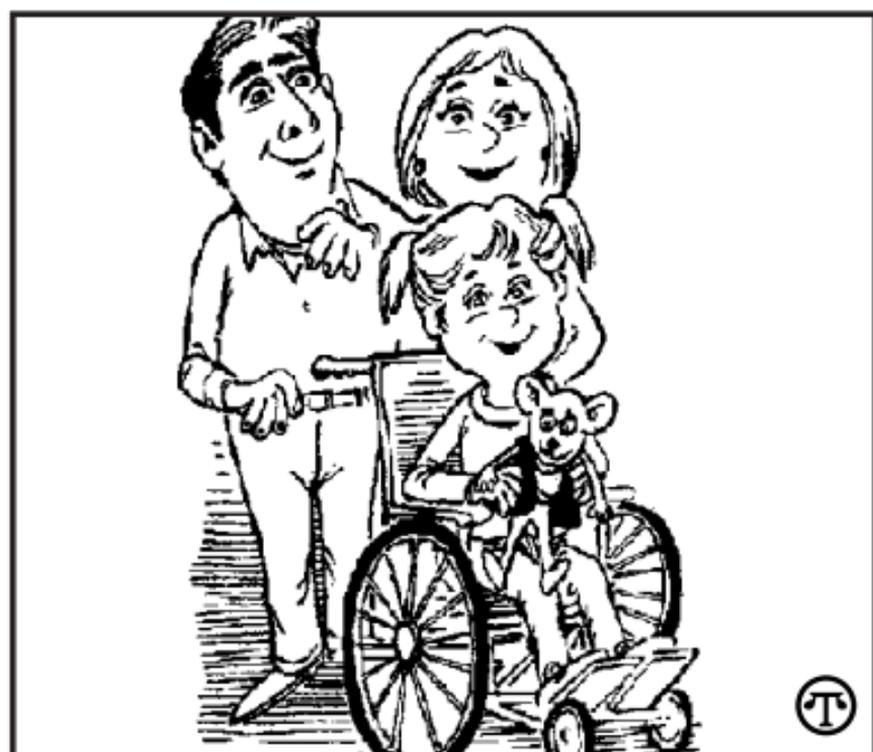




spotlight on health

Safe Play For Children With Spina Bifida

(NAPSA)—During the holiday season or any gift-giving occasion, it is important to navigate the array of toys on the market very carefully—and ask for assistance in selecting latex-free toys for children with spina bifida.



For children with a common birth defect, many toys can trigger a dangerous allergy.

More than 70,000 Americans have spina bifida, and an additional 1,400 children are born with the condition each year. Children with spina bifida often develop serious latex allergies. This is due to frequent exposure to medical devices during ongoing surgeries—and reactions to the natural rubber can sometimes be deadly.

Finding latex-free toys for little ones with spina bifida can be a challenge; a variety of playthings, including silly string, water toys, balloons, bicycle handgrips and many items of clothing contain latex.

Women can reduce their risk of having a child with spina bifida by taking the B vitamin folic acid every day. To learn more, call the Spina Bifida Association of America at 1-800-621-3141 or visit www.sbaa.org.