

Helpful suggestions Possible tragedy lurks with harmful ornaments

The Christmas Season is upon us. In many towns and cities the Santa Claus parade has ushered Santa to his throne in local department stores and malls. At home, the festive hustle and bustle has begun, and children are excited as the yearly ceremony of "putting up the tree" is drawing near.

"It is a wonderful time for both children and adults alike," says Judy Woodin, Family Asthma Program Co-ordinator of the Lung Association in Halton "but in the midst of happiness we would like to warn parents that possible tragedy lurks in the form of brightly coloured plastic ornaments dangling from the tree."

The dangling ornament often entices the toddler to grab it, put it in his mouth, only to realize that it isn't candy. Surprised, the youngster tries to spit it out. Bit it cracks, and a portion of the plastic lodges in his windpipe or

is aspirated (inhaled) into his lungs.

This is a possible tragedy in the midst of fun. Aspiration of foreign objects is a leading cause of death and injury among children under six years of age.

How can you help to keep preschoolers safe? The Lung Association suggests:

— Do not place tiny ornaments on low tree boughs where a youngster can grab them.

Use Christmas Seals

With Christmas festivities reaching their peak, the Lung Association asks that you use the colorful Christmas seals, sent to millions of householders, on cards and parcels, because they represent a gift of health and happiness.

The Halton Lung Association's goal is \$125,000 and to date \$78,586 has been raised. "We have so many people depending on us for help," says Mrs. Anne Gaudet, president.

— Tell Santa Claus to bring presents that do not have button eyes or tiny car wheels that can come loose or games with marbles.

— Keep small "finger food" such as peanuts and popcorn off low coffee tables when you entertain. Food also can be aspirated.

At this joyous season, your Lung Association wishes you and yours a happy and healthy season.

"The Christmas Seal Campaign is our one major fundraising event, and we know the community will get behind us — we must reach our goal this year."

This year's Christmas Seal design is the work of Vancouver based graphic designer Raymond Boyer. His popular designs were chosen in 1978, 1980, 1981, 1983 and again in 1984.

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