



# TREETOP TALK



**Anna Shaw**  
Children's Institute

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**December 2022**

Our Video Library is available on our website! Our library includes all webinars, Reading Around the Tree videos, and Music in the Treetops videos. To access this library, please [click here](#).

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**Anna Shaw Children's Institute provides champion care to children and families for happy, healthy lives.**

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## **Shopping for Toys Safely**



It's the month of December, so you know what that means...fun and family time for the holidays. This month, we practice gift-giving to show the people in our lives that we love and care for them dearly, especially those adorable little kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. So, the last thing you would want to do is gift a toy that could potentially cause harm. We want to encourage you to choose wisely when gift shopping this holiday. Below are some concerns and safety tips that you can practice to help the children in your life have a fun and safe holiday.

### **Small Balls and Other Toys With Small Parts**

- Toys with small parts are likely to cause choking if swallowed. A size guide for identifying small parts would be anything small enough to fit inside a toilet paper roll.
- Do not gift these toys with small parts to children younger than age three or any children with differing abilities.
- Read the labels to get an idea of the appropriate ages, and remember to consider the child's functional age as well as their age in years.

### **Balloons**

- Choose mylar balloons rather than latex balloons. Latex balloons have always been dangerous for children of varying ages.
- Latex balloons can cause choking and suffocation, especially when broken. Supervise children with all types of balloons.
- Remove popped balloons from the environment as soon as they pop, and avoid giving these to children younger than eight.

### **Riding Toys**

- Riding toys include bicycles, scooters, skateboards, etc.
- The first thing to note is to buy the appropriate size per the child's age.
- It is the safest practice to gift a bicycle with training wheels.
- When gifting a bicycle, include safety gear such as a helmet and knee pads.

### **Magnets**

- Toys or gifts with magnets are unsuitable for children who put non-edible items in their mouths.
- If you can, avoid all high-powered magnet sets, as these are dangerous for even adults.

### **General Tips**

- Before allowing your child to play with a new toy, clean or wash it as appropriate, and check the toy thoroughly for loose parts. Also, read instruction manuals and warning labels for safe usage.
- When shopping for a toy or gift, read warning labels and check the recommended age.
- Check to ensure that all crayons etc., are non-toxic.
- Throw away all gift wrapping and ribbons after children have opened their gifts.
- Avoid toys with ropes for children younger than eight years.

If you have questions, please call Anna Shaw Children's Institute Nurse Navigator Krista Rogers, LPN, at 706-226-8912.

Resource: <https://www.sioxcenterhealth.org/latest-news-and-blog/national-safe-toys-and-gifts-month-with-child-family-services/>

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# Parent Support Group



The Parent Support Group, hosted by Anna Shaw Children's Institute, meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am.

● **SNACKS ARE PROVIDED**

Southern Magnolia room on the lower level  
**Anna Shaw Children's Institute**  
1201 Burleyson Road  
Dalton, Georgia

Please RSVP by calling  
**Heather Mallett** at  
☎ **706.226.8911**

**Anna Shaw Children's Institute follows social distancing and CDC safety guidelines.**



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[HamiltonHealth.com/children](https://HamiltonHealth.com/children)



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# GRUPO DE APOYO PARA PADRES LATINOS

Todos los padres, abuelos, guardianes, y otros miembros de la familia de niños con necesidades especiales están invitados a tomar parte en un grupo de apoyo para padres, dirigido por los padres.

Anna Shaw Children's Institute se apega a las guías de seguridad y recomendaciones de distanciamiento social de la CDC.



**Anna Shaw Children's Institute**  
Southern Magnolia Room • Primer Piso

1201 Burleyson Road  
Dalton, Georgia

Para mas información póngase en contacto con Berta Castillo  
706.218.5804.

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**PRIMER JUEVES  
DE CADA MES**

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**9:00 - 10:00 am**

**Necesidades  
Especiales**

[HamiltonHealth.com/children](http://HamiltonHealth.com/children)



**Anna Shaw**  
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# LATINO PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

All parents, grandparents, guardians, and other family members of children with special needs are invited to take part in a parent-led Parent Support Group.

Anna Shaw Children's Institute follows social distancing and CDC safety guidelines.

**Anna Shaw Children's Institute**  
Southern Magnolia Room • 1st Floor

1201 Burleyson Road  
Dalton, Georgia

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**FIRST THURSDAY  
OF EACH MONTH**

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**9:00 - 10:00 am**

Contact Berta Castillo at  
706.218.5804 for more  
information.

**Special  
Needs**

[HamiltonHealth.com/children](http://HamiltonHealth.com/children)

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**[For more information about Anna Shaw Children's Institute, please visit our website by clicking here.](#)**

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[Click Here](#) to Watch a Heartwarming Video from Anna Shaw Children's Institute

Find out MORE

<https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/press/march-is-developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/>

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