



## **Top tips when passing toys on**

1. If you have the space (in a loft or garage) to keep the packaging, then store away until you are ready to pass along the toy. The packaging of the toy carries warnings, markings, and safety advice, so ideally this should be passed along with the toy. If you do not have the space, make sure you keep hold of the instructions and, if you can, cut out the warnings and markings, including the manufacturers address, and staple these to the instructions, then store this all together in a draw. You will need this information to make sure the toy is played with properly, is suitable for the age of the child, and to contact the manufacturer if you have any problems with the toy. If you keep this together you will have the same information to pass on to friends or charity shops when your child has outgrown the toy.
2. Before passing a toy on check that it isn't broken, has no sharp edges, rough points or parts that have come loose.
3. Check soft toys for sturdy, well-sewn seams. Be certain that eyes and noses are securely fastened and cannot be bitten off or pulled off by inquisitive little fingers.
4. Check that fur or hair is not coming away.
5. Check that an electrical toy still functions then remove any batteries. If left for long periods batteries can leak. Remove any batteries and the toy can be safely stored for long periods of time. The new owner can add new batteries when they take over ownership.
6. For bigger equipment like outdoor toys check that they are not rusty and have not been weakened by weathering.
7. Be aware that over time legislation can change to control newly identified risks with toys. In particular be careful of loose high-powered magnets – we would not recommend passing these on. Also take care with stick-on suckers that could be swallowed or older metal toys that may have sharp edges.
8. Often toys are put away by a previous generation so that parents and grandparents can share their favourite toys with their children and grandchildren. Be aware that the rules on toy safety will have changed substantially during the intervening years (for example, in 1950 toy soldiers would have been made of lead, in 2012 there is no lead allowed in toys). If you want to share these toys supervise children when they are playing and use your judgement.