

The Coach House of Metamora invites you to our Christmas Open House

November thru December 18

Deck your halls with gifts you'll treasure from our newly expanded Christmas gift shop. We've trimmed the shop front to bottom with splendid hand-crafted ornaments and gifts.

Arlene and her family create beautiful decorative accents for the present with nostalgic reminders of the past in an exciting display and sale of Victorian and Country decorations.

Don't miss our wide selection of lovely lace cloths and delicate white aprons perfectly suited for year round entertaining.

Look for our new Santa ornament featured in
Monthly Detroit — The Hit of the Season.

Attention Christmas Followers
Join us for our famous
Downtown Metamora Christmas Parade
on Saturday, Dec. 7

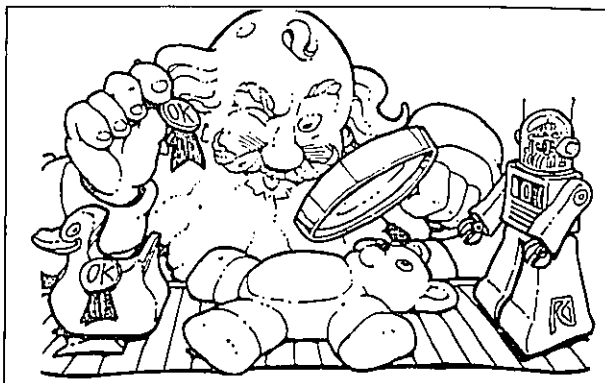
4054 South Oak St.

(M-24 to Dryden Rd. Turn East to the Village on Metamora)

METAMORA

678-3342

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-5



TV commercials can provide a springboard for discussions about which toys children like and why. In such talks, parents can determine which toys would be treasured and which would be tossed aside after a short while.

Learn about toys before buying them

IT ISN'T ENOUGH to simply read a child's wish list while shopping for Christmas toys, warns a major toy manufacturer. For safety's sake, shoppers also should read the boxes in which the toys are packaged — after spending a Saturday morning watching children's programs on TV.

"If you want to get a good idea about what a toy is like and how safe it is, sit down with your kids on a Saturday morning and watch television with them," suggested Mary Woodworth of Tomy Corp.

"The important thing to notice in any commercial is the 'island,'" she said. "It tells you almost everything you need to know safetywise."

The island is the shot at the end of each commercial that shows the toy by itself. If the toy is a set, all its pieces are pictured in this still shot, and here any manufacturer's disclaimers are made.

"This is when you can find out if the toy comes with batteries or if it has to be assembled," Woodworth said. "Here's also where you can look at all the pieces and check each one for safety. Look for sharp edges, for small pieces that can be swallowed, for anything you feel wouldn't be appropriate for your child."

COMMERCIALS ALSO can provide a springboard for discussions about which toys children like and why. In such talks, parents often can determine which toys would be treasured and which would be tossed aside after a short while.

Once lists have been made and the actual shopping is under way, carefully read the information printed on toy packaging, Woodward said. The main item to look for is the age range for which the toy is intended.

The biggest mistake most adults make when shopping for children's toys is buying items that are too advanced for the child in question.

"What you often see is something like a father buying an electric train for a toddler," Woodworth said. "It's a case where the father actually wants the toy for himself because he remembers how much he enjoyed trains when he was a little boy. But the problem is that while an electric train is appropriate for an older child, it can be very dangerous for a very young one."

"The solution might be for the father to go ahead and buy the electric train for himself, making sure it's clear that the toy is for Dad, not for the child. Then he can buy a similar but more appropriate toy for the toddler — maybe a plastic choo-choo that can be pulled around."

CHILDREN WHO are apt to put anything and everything into their mouths shouldn't have toys with batteries, Woodworth said. Batteries contain acid and can be very harmful.

Parents who have children of different ages in the home should be especially careful in toy selection.

"What's safe for an 8-year-old may not be safe for a 2-year-old," Woodward said. "The small parts of a building set or board game are potential hazards for little ones who may put things into their mouths. Make sure older children keep their toys out of the reach of toddlers."

Toys for toddlers should be checked for parts that can be removed and swallowed, sharp edges, pinching points and other hazards. Seams on stuffed toys and should be closely examined, she said.

"Ideally, it would be great if you could go to a store and actually sit down with your child and try out