

New York State Consumer Protection Board is on your **SYDE!**

Please **JOIN** our **Stretch Your Dollar Effort:**



Special Holiday “Shopping for Kids” Edition

The following suggestions have been received from consumers thus far. Please add your own suggestions by sending an email to my2cents@consumer.state.ny.us.

- **Teach** your children about the spirit and true meaning of the holiday season and how giving and receiving gifts is only one small part of their holiday magic.
- **Consider** getting your children involved in a program which gives holiday food and gifts to families less fortunate than their own.
- **Talk** to your children about their wish list. Suggest maybe one large gift for the entire family to enjoy rather than individual presents.
- **Make** gifts rather than buying them from the store. Homemade gifts mean more to your children as they come from the heart and will become keepsakes. There are many websites offering great suggestions and instructions for making gifts. Your children will have much more fun making gifts with you for other family members than shopping for store bought items. You can make your holiday cards too!
- **Check** out store circulars before going shopping. These are great references for finding popular children’s items that are on sale. Review the ads and prices with your kids so they understand the value of money and being able to make purchases for others.
- **Ask** retailers if they will match other stores’ prices. Often, they will and this will allow you to purchase the item your child would like at the store of your choice.
- **Keep** your receipt and watch for the prices of items you purchased to go even lower. Many stores offer a price guarantee for a certain time period and will reimburse you if the item sells for less during that time after your purchase. This way you can purchase that gift your child desires before it is out-of-stock with the assurance that you may still save more money.
- **Think** twice before purchasing extended warranty policies. For many items, they are not necessary and will just cause you to spend more money.
- **Look** to see if you can find the items on your child’s wish list for less money through online merchants. Also, search for online coupons and promotion codes that you can use to save even more money at checkout. Just make sure you do not spend extra money on shipping and handling costs.
- **Don’t** skimp on safety even if you need to be more frugal with your money. Make sure all gifts for kids are age appropriate and have not been recalled. Read labels, do research and check for recalls at www.cpsc.gov and www.nysconsumer.gov.
- **Use** due diligence if considering purchasing second-hand toys from a friend, garage sale or online auction. Make sure the toys are in good condition with no missing parts, sharp edges, and of course are not on a recall list.
- **Be** careful where you shop for your children’s toys and jewelry. Shop with retailers with whom you are familiar.