

Toys for tykes—parents beware

By Elena Vancil
Of The Print

Christmas season is here, and the manufacturers of children's toys are not going to let you forget about it.

There is no need for parents to feel confused by the barrage of advertising, though. Sister Clarilda Connors, who teaches family-oriented classes at the College, has given a number of workshops on how to choose toys and make them work in your child's favor.

Safety is a major factor, she stressed. A parent should examine the toy for sharp edges, and know what it is made of. Some toys are dangerous even for older children, so parents should beware.

Creativity should also be taken into consideration accor-

ding to Connors.

"If the toy does just one thing it is not very creative," she said. "It should do a number of things, and challenge the child's sense of discovery and fantasy."

"A toy should help stimulate a sense of play in work, and carry over some element of play to work," she continued. "Then they can find something enjoyable in work."

Proper parental influence could compound the good influences that a good toy will impress upon a child.

Connors stressed that before the child receives the toy parents should work with him to find a proper place for it. Then after the child receives the toy, review its rules with him, and make sure that putting the toy away is part of the game.

"This takes care of developing order in the child," she said. "I don't mean neatness, but order in thought, step-by-step, logical thinking."

"Psychologists have been researching this," she continued. "They are finding out that in a crowded society, much violence is caused because the individual doesn't know his place or the rules."

"A child should be taught to play alone and follow the rules, even if the room is crowded."

Connors did not recommend any particular brands of toys, but mentioned that parents should avoid toys that reinforce certain roles or identities.

If boys play with dolls, that doesn't mean they are going to be homosexuals, she stressed. It could develop maternal feelings of warmth and caring, in a manly way.



SHOPPING SEASON—Toys are on display at Fred Meyers. Photo by Robert Hand.



The children at the College day care center are excited about the upcoming holiday, and have many hopes of what Santa might bring.

Audrey, left, and Carrie, right, were among the enthusiastic children who desired yo-yo's, ses.

Christmas morning will contain the same anticipation for them, that it has for generations. Photos by Elena Vancil.



arts briefs

Peter Illyitch Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" will be performed by Ballet West at the Civic Auditorium. More than 150 dancers will perform the Christmas Classic, Jan. 11 and 12.

The production, choreographed by William Christenson, includes favorites from the Sugar Plum Fairy to mystical Arabian dancers and waltzing flowers.

Tickets are on sale at Celebrity Attractions, 1010 S.W. Morrison, Portland. They are priced at \$10, \$8.50 and \$7, with boxes at \$11.

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Don't forget the Christmas Dance, which will be held in the Community Center Mall, Dec. 13, 9 p.m. to midnight. Jazzle will be the featured band. Admission is \$1 for students with CCC identification, and \$2 general.

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A chance to do some Christmas shopping is taking place in the Community Center Mall today. The Crafts Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dried and silk flower arrangements, crocheted accessories and stuffed animals are some items that can be found at the annual event.

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"The French Connection" will be shown in the Fireside Lounge, Thursday at 7 p.m., and noon on Friday.

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