FLORIDA COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING
888-ADMIT-IT®

GIFT RESPONSIBLY

Don't Leave Their Future Up to Chance.



2026 Responsible Gifting Guide

Why Thoughtful Gifting Matters

The holiday season, birthdays, and other gift-giving occasions are all about celebration, connection, and joy. Yet some gifts that seem harmless—like lottery tickets or gambling-themed games—can expose children to gambling risks without anyone meaning to. Research shows that early exposure to gambling increases the likelihood of developing problem gambling behaviors later in life.

That's why the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) proudly takes part in the Gift Responsibly Campaign: helping families pick gifts that spark creativity, learning, and positive experiences, while steering clear of items that normalize gambling.

Gifts to Leave Off the List

Even when they're marketed as "fun" or "just for play," these gifts can encourage gambling-like behaviors in children:

- Lottery tickets, including scratch-offs
- Casino-style toys or board games (slot machines, roulette, poker sets)
- Sports betting gift cards or fantasy sports credits
- Online gaming gift cards that can be used for gambling-style apps or simulated betting games
- Video games with loot boxes – These features prompt players to spend money for a chance at random rewards. By combining risk, chance, and reward, loot boxes mimic gambling and can normalize gambling-like habits in young players.

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING
888-ADMIT-IT®

GIFT RESPONSIBLY

Don't Leave Their Future Up to Chance.



Know the Facts

The Gift Responsibly Campaign encourages parents, family members, and caregivers to keep lottery tickets off children's gift lists, and helps raise awareness of the risks of youth gambling.

18.5%

Research helps explain why gifting lottery products to children carries real risk. Despite the legal gambling age of 18, Florida prevalence research revealed 18.5% of adolescents ages 13-17 reported purchasing lottery tickets in their lifetime and 12.5% within the past year.

The same study also found [1]:

- Lifetime participation in gambling was almost 70% among Florida residents, ages 13 to 17.
- Over 40% reported gambling in the past year and 11.5% reported gambling weekly.
- Adolescents with gambling problems also had much higher rates of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use.

As caregivers, we can make a difference by talking openly about the risks of gambling and, most importantly, choosing age-appropriate, non-gambling-related gifts for children.

Download Free Problem Gambling Resource Packs at GamblingHelp.org

Resource packs from the FCCG cover counseling services, self-exclusion programs, self-help support groups, and more.

References:

1. Shapira, N. A., Ferguson, M. A., Frost-Pineda, K., & Gold, M. S. (2002). Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevalence among Adolescents in Florida.

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING
888-ADMIT-IT®

GIFT RESPONSIBLY

Don't Leave Their Future Up to Chance.



Fun Gift Ideas Kids Will Love

Whatever the occasion, these gift ideas spark imagination, build skills, and create lasting memories:

Creative & Educational

- Art kits, craft supplies, or DIY projects
- Science experiment kits or STEM toys
- Musical instruments or beginner lessons
- Books tailored to a child's interests

Active & Experiential

- Sports equipment (basketball, soccer ball, jump rope)
- Dance, martial arts, or swim class vouchers
- Family passes to museums, zoos, or aquariums
- Outdoor adventure gear (roller skates, camping supplies)

Tech & Entertainment (Safe Choices)

- Puzzle games or strategy board games
- Coding kits or robotics sets
- Subscription boxes for crafts, science, or reading
- Age-appropriate video games without gambling mechanics

Memory-Making Experiences

- Tickets to a live show, concert, or sporting event
- Family game night bundles (classic board games, card games without gambling themes)
- Cooking or baking kits for kids
- Personalized gifts (photo books, custom puzzles, engraved keepsakes)

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON COMPULSIVE GAMBLING
888-ADMIT-IT®

GIFT RESPONSIBLY

Don't Leave Their Future Up to Chance.



Join the Movement!

1. Download this guide and share it with friends, family, and community partners.

2. Talk openly with children about the risks of gambling and why some gifts aren't a good fit for young people.

3. Help raise awareness all year long by posting on social media with the hashtag **#GiftResponsibly**.



Together, we can make every gift-giving occasion one of celebration, care, and responsible choices.