

# Greetings from Watchdog **CHAMP** and the Consumer Protection Board



Hi! I am **Champ**, the watchdog for ALL kid consumers in New York State. It is a BIG responsibility. Thus, I am glad you are on the *New York State Consumer Protection Board's (CPB)* kids' page so I can tell you ways in which you can help make my job easier! Do you know what a consumer is? Did you know that kids are consumers too?


The dictionary tells us that a consumer is a person who buys things. When your mom, dad or adult guardian goes to the grocery store to buy food they are being consumers. When you go back-to-school shopping for clothes or school supplies with your mom, dad or another adult you are all acting as consumers. If you go to the toy store with some of your own saved money and buy

something to play with, you are a consumer too!

My job is to make sure that when all of you are out buying things and bringing them home to use that they are safe to play with and work well. I also watch out to make sure you all know about important safety tips so that when you are playing you do not get hurt. You can also tell your family and friends about this safety news.

I bet you have never heard of the *CPB* before so let me tell you all about it. The *CPB* stands for the *New York State Consumer Protection Board* and that is with whom I work to help protect you kids and your families. The *CPB* is a State governmental agency consisting of many nice and smart people. They work in a big building where everyone tries to make sure you, your friends and family are



treated fairly. We are a great place to  call if you have a problem with a store or business because many times we can help fix it. The **CPB** has been around for a long time way before any of you were born, maybe even before some of your parents were born. I know it was way before I was born! The **CPB** has been helping people in New York State since 1970. That is 37 years which to you and I is many birthdays!

So, your first **assignment** as my **helper** is to tell your parents and other adults all about us. You can even give them our phone number which is **1-800-697-1220** and tell them to look at our web-site at **[www.nysconsumer.gov](http://www.nysconsumer.gov)** for lots of great information for grown-ups.

Please check out my **Kidsumers** newsletter that has some great safety tips for you and your friends!

Thanks, **Champ - Woof!**

