

# Safe Kids Indiana

WINTER 2011 - 2012

## Did You Know?

### Don't Toy with Safety!

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The 2012 Injury Prevention Conference sponsored by Safe Kids Indiana and the Automotive Safety Program is scheduled for May 3-4, 2012.

Registration materials will be sent via email later in the year.

Naturally, you want your children to have a safe play environment with safe toys. Did you know that in 2009, there were an estimated 181,900 toy-related injuries? And that children under 5 accounted for nearly half of these injuries?

Do your children like to play with small balls and balloons? These kinds of toys account for many choking deaths. Do your children like riding toys – unpowered scooters or tri-cycles? They are associated with more injuries than any other toy group; in fact half of the toy-related injuries treated in emergency rooms were caused by unpowered riding toys. In addition to other hazards, any electrical toy is a potential burn hazard.

Make sure your children play safely by following some simple safety tips.

#### Top Toy Safety Tips

Be sure your children play with toys that are age-appropriate. Read the warning labels before buying toys for your children. Look for well-made toys.

Check toys regularly for damage that could create hazards. Repair or discard damaged toys immediately.

Watch your children while they play. Be aware of potential dangers like small parts, cords and strings, moving parts, electrical or battery-powered cords or wheels.

Do not allow riding toys near stairs, traffic or swimming pools.

Teach children to put toys away after playing. Toys intended for younger children should be stored separately from those suitable for older children.

Make sure toy chests are open (no lid) or have safety hinges.

Check out these links for more information:

<http://www.safekids.org/assets/docs/safety-basics/safety-tips-by-risk-area/pocket-guide-to-safe-and-age-appropriate-toys.pdf>

<http://www.safekids.org/our-work/recalls/>



**Safe Kids**  
**Indiana**  
**Preventing**  
**Injuries:**  
**At Home,**  
**At Play,**  
**And On The**  
**Way!**

## Button Batteries

Button batteries are dangerous to kids, especially toddlers, and cause severe injuries when swallowed.

The coin-sized batteries children swallow come from many devices, most often mini remote controls. Other places you may find them are: singing greeting cards, watches, bathroom scales, and flameless candles.

It takes as little as two hours to cause severe burns once a coin-sized lithium battery has been swallowed.

Once burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed.

Kids can still breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat. It may not be obvious at first that something is

wrong.

Repairing the damage is painful and can require multiple surgeries.

The batteries can become lodged in the throat, burning the esophagus.

In 2010 alone, more than 3,400 swallowing cases were reported in the U.S. Nineteen children sustained life-threatening or debilitating injuries and others died!

### Top Tips for Battery Safety

**SEARCH** your home, and any place your child goes for gadgets that may contain coin lithium batteries.

**SECURE** coin lithium battery-controlled devices out of sight and reach of children and keep loose batteries locked away.

**SHARE** this life-saving information with caregivers, friends, family mem-

bers and sitters.

### In Case of Emergency

Keeping these batteries out of reach and secured in devices is key, but if a child swallows a battery, parents and caregivers should follow these steps:

Go to the emergency room immediately. Tell doctors and nurses that your child may have swallowed a battery. If possible, provide the medical team with the identification number found on the battery's package.

Do not let the child eat or drink until a chest x-ray can determine if a battery is present.

Do not induce vomiting.

Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 for additional treatment information.



The Indiana Poison Center has just started a Face Book page!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Indiana-Poison-Center/297875686897662>

Please spread the word about the new page and check back regularly for new content.