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# Safe kids

Safe Kids monthly E-Newsletter contains information on new recalls, safety announcements, and events to help ensure your little ones safety all year long! Please call or email with your comments, or suggestions. Go to [www.nlcsafekids.org](http://www.nlcsafekids.org) today!!

## Child Proof Your Home

### 1,800 Children Per Year Fatally Injured at Home Safe Kids urges parents to childproof homes

**New London** — Each year in the United States, more than 1,800 children ages 4 and under die from accidental injuries in the home, and more than 3 million children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for accidental injuries occurring at home.

Safe Kids urges parents and caregivers to check their homes at least once a year for basic safety precautions. “Make it your New Year’s resolution,” says Esther Schuman, Coordinator of Safe Kids New London County. “It’s easy to eliminate the most obvious hazards — and you don’t need a lot of expensive equipment.”

The first step in childproofing a home is to explore every room at a child’s eye level. “Literally get down on your hands and knees and crawl around. You’ll be surprised at how much you can reach and how many small objects you can pick up,” says Schuman “Anything that can fit through a toilet paper tube is a potential choking hazard. Of course, cleaning products, alcohol, firearms, matches, lighters and other potentially harmful products need to be stored out of reach and locked up.”

#### Safe Kids also recommends

**Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees F.** At higher temperatures, it only takes three seconds to burn a child’s skin severely enough to require surgery.

**Test your smoke alarms every month.** Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every sleeping area.

**Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and near fuel-burning appliances.**

**Put safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway.** Gates installed with hardware are safer than pressure gates.

**Cover unused electrical outlets.** You can buy plastic outlet covers or just use duct tape.

**Keep firearms unloaded and locked out of reach.** And lock up ammunition in a separate place.



## Child Safety Seat Inspections

- 1/2- L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/4- L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/9-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/11- L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/17- Mohegan 12-3PM
- 1/19-Norwich FD 10-1 PM
- 1/24-Mohegan 10-1 PM
- 1/30-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/3- Mohegan 12-3 PM
- 1/5- Norwich FD 10-1
- 1/10-Mohegan 10-1PM
- 1/16-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/18-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/23-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/25-L&M 4-7 PM
- 1/31-Mohegan 10-1 PM

**Please note:**  
All Car Seat Checks are by Appointment ONLY!!!!

Please bring your car seat, directions to the car seat, and the owner’s manual for your vehicle.

**Call: (860) 442-0733**

For more recall information please visit...  
[www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov)

### Remote-Control Helicopter Toys Recalled Due to Burn Hazard

**Name of Product:** Remote-Control Dragonfly King HX-242 Helicopter (also known as the Micro R/C Helicopter)

**Hazard:** The helicopter battery can overheat and catch fire, posing a burn hazard to consumers.

**Description:** The recalled toy helicopters are remote-controlled lightweight plastic toy helicopters. The helicopter is sold with a control unit, a charger and rechargeable batteries in the body of the toy.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled toy helicopters and contact ThinkGeek to receive a refund or a replacement product.

**Customer Contact:** For additional information, contact ThinkGeek at (888) 433-5788



### COMPASS CAR SEAT 1-888-899-2229

**Model(s):** I-420 (Fabric codes ARD, FUO, & MAR)

**Production Dates:** May 7 through May 15, 2006

**Noncompliance:** In the event of a vehicle crash, the crotch anchor can become dislodged allowing the child to travel up the seat back causing breakage in the upper seat back and a seat back rotation, possibly resulting in serious injury to the child.

**Corrective Action:** Compass will notify owners who sent in their registration card and will mail a repair kit along with repair instructions free of charge. The recall is expected to begin during December 2006. Owners may contact compass toll-free at 1-888-899-2229.



### Regal Lager Inc. Recall to Repair Strollers Due to Abrasion Hazard

**Name of Product:** Phil & Teds e3 Strollers with doubles seats

**Hazard:** Children can touch the rear tires when in the stroller's add-on seat. This can pose an abrasion hazard to children.

**Description:** This recall involves the e3 Buggy which is a three-wheeled stroller with a black steel tubing frame. It is sold in a variety of fabric colors. An additional seat, known as a "Doubles Kit," can be added directly behind the main stroller's seat allowing a second child to ride in the stroller.



**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the additional rear seat in the lower position on top of the rear axle and contact Regal Lager for free additional rear wheel guards.

**Customer Contact:** For more information, contact Regal Lager at (800) 593-5522 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, e-mail the firm at [info@regallager.com](mailto:info@regallager.com) or [www.regallager.com](http://www.regallager.com)



### Wal-Mart Stores Inc. Recalls Christmas Mug Gift Sets

**Name of product:** Holiday Time™ Christmas Mug Gift Sets

**Hazard:** The buttons could detach from the plush characters sold with the mug gift sets, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**Description:** The gift sets include a decorated ceramic mug and a stuffed Santa, snowman, or reindeer.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately take the plush character away from small children and return it to their nearest Wal-Mart for a full refund.

**Consumer Contact:** Call Wal-Mart toll free at (800) 925-6278 between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday, or visit [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com) for more information.



### BabySwede LLC Recalls BABYBJÖRN® Feeding Spoons

**Name of Product:** BABYBJÖRN®

**Hazard:** After extended use, the soft plastic tip on the feeding spoon can loosen and break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**Description:** The recalled feeding spoons were sold under the brand name "BABYBJÖRN," which is printed along the front side of the spoon's handle.

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled feeding spoons and contact BabySwede LLC

**Customer Contact:** (866) 424-0200 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.babyswede.com](http://www.babyswede.com)



### Nintendo of America Initiates Replacement Program for Wrist Straps

**Name of Product:** Wrist Straps

**Issue:** If consumers swing the hand-held "Wii Remote" game controllers using excessive force and accidentally let go, the cord connecting the controller to the wrist strap can break, potentially causing the controller to strike bystanders or objects.

**Description:** The wrist straps are sold with Nintendo's Wii video game system

**Remedy:** Consumers should contact the firm for a replacement wrist strap.

**Customer Contact:** Nintendo toll-free at (800) 859-4519 between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. PT, or [www.support.nintendo.com](http://www.support.nintendo.com)



# Winter Sports Safety

“Children under 6 should not be riding a snowmobile, period, and nobody under 16 should be driving one,” says Kelly Murphy. “All snowmobile drivers and passengers should be wearing helmets designed for high-speed motor sports — a bike helmet isn’t sufficient for a four-wheeled motorcycle that can go up to 90 miles per hour.”

More than a quarter million children each year are injured while participating in winter sports in the United States. Safe Kids offers a few simple precautions: **kids need to be dressed appropriately, take lessons, be actively supervised and stick to safe terrain. For many winter activities, protective headgear is also recommended.**

“Kids should wear helmets when they ski,” says Kelly Murphy, Assistant Coordinator of Safe Kids New London County. “Buy or rent a ski helmet that’s certified by the Snell Memorial Foundation or ASTM International, and have an expert make sure it fits correctly so it won’t come loose at a critical moment.” According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, ski helmets could prevent or reduce the effects of 53 percent of the head injuries suffered by children under 15 while skiing or snowboarding.

“Caregivers should wear ski helmets too — remember, your children learn safety habits by watching you,” says Murphy.

Roughly 3,000 kids a year suffer serious head injuries (brain injuries) from sledding. “Kids under 12 should wear a helmet while sledding,” says Murphy, citing a position statement by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. “Don’t go down a hill headfirst — sit up and face forward. Make sure there’s adult supervision and a clear, safe path.” A good sledding hill does not lead to a street, a body of water or a crowded gathering place. In addition, the CPSC reminds parents and kids to inspect sleds regularly for worn, damaged or loose parts that could break or snag at high speed.

There is no consensus among experts about the need for helmets while ice skating, but parents should keep in mind that beginners are likely to fall down a lot. Helmets are a must for ice hockey, along with mouth guards, knee pads and elbow, shoulder and shin protection. “Skate only on ice that’s approved for skating by the local recreation department or park authority,” says Murphy. **“Teach kids how to protect themselves if they do fall through the ice: stretch their arms out wide and kick as if swimming, shout for help and try to crawl backward onto solid ice.”**

“Basic health and comfort precautions can go a long way in preventing injury,” says Kelly Murphy. “Dress in layers. Wear sunscreen. Stay hydrated. Kids — or caregivers — who become distracted or irritable, or begin to hyperventilate, may be suffering from hypothermia or altitude sickness, or they may be too tired to participate safely in winter sports. They need to go indoors, rest and warm up.”

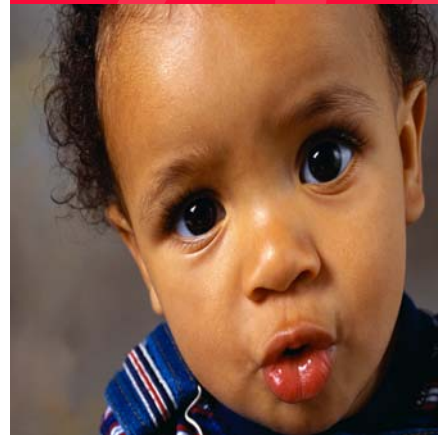
In 2004, more than 56,000 children ages 5 to 14 were taken to emergency rooms for injuries resulting from winter sports, including approximately 21,000 from snowboarding, 12,000 from sledding, 11,000 from skiing, 11,000 from ice skating and 1,500 from snowmobile accidents.

**“I didn’t look much -  
- I’ve only got little  
eyes!”**

**--- 7 year old, about to be  
scolded for peeking at her  
Christmas presents.**

## Prevent Childhood Choking

### It’s Up to You!



#### **KIDS UNDER 3 ARE MOST AT RISK**

Babies and children under age 3 put lots of things in their mouths. Choking (or airway obstruction) occurs when a small object or piece of food blocks the airway

#### **CLEAN UP AND PUT AWAY**

Homes and child care facilities must be continually “childproofed” for safety. Small and/or sharp objects should be kept out of a child’s reach.

#### **THE RIGHT TOY AT THE RIGHT TIME**

Choose age-appropriate toys (follow age guidelines on toy packages). Inspect all toys regularly for breakage or loose parts. Purchase a small parts tester at your local toy or baby store (or use a toilet paper roll). If an object fits in the tester, it is a choking hazard or children under age 3.

#### **THE RIGHT FOOD AT THE RIGHT TIME**

When it comes to food, keep it safe, cut it small and keep kids seated. Selecting and preparing appropriate foods for young children can help prevent airway obstruction.

#### **STAY CLOSE BY WITH A WATCHFUL EYE**

When a child is eating or playing, ALWAYS stay close by and watch for signs of choking. Adult supervision is key to preventing choking.