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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 today!!

Special Alert! Safe Kids Responds to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety Booster Seat Study

Booster Seats are Not-One-Size-Fits-All Parents Must Find the Right Fit for Their Child

Booster seats are a proven way to help keep kids safer in vehicles. In fact, for children 4 to 7 years old, booster seats reduce injury risk by 59 percent compared to seat belts alone, according to researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

But a report released today by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has questioned if certain booster seats provide children with a better fit than others. Kids come in all shapes and sizes, and not all boosters will fit all children the same way. There are no "good" seats and "bad" seats as the IIHS list might suggest—all meet the government standard in crash tests. But booster seats are not designed to be one-size-fits-all. The different variations in boosters allow parents to find the right fit for each child.

It's All About Fit -Parents and caregivers should not panic and they should continue to use booster seats for their children on every ride. However, there are a few simple steps parents can take to make sure a child's booster fits the correct way.

Safety belts are designed for adults and many children are too small to get a proper fit without using a booster seat. Most children who have outgrown their toddler

seats but are still under 4 feet 9 inches tall and less than 80 pounds will be safest using a booster seat.

Take this easy fit test with your child to determine if a booster seat fits your child:

1. Place your child on the booster seat and fasten the lap and shoulder seat belts around the child.
2. Use the seat belt guides on the booster seat for the lap and shoulder belts.
3. Check to be sure the lap belt rests on the top of the thighs or low on the hips.
4. Check to be sure the shoulder belt is positioned on the bony shoulder- not the neck or face. Never place the shoulder belt under the arm or behind the back.

If the shoulder belt and lap belt are on the child as stated above, the booster seat will work as designed to protect your child in a crash. If not, try another brand until you find the one that fits your child. Fortunately, there are lots of choices.



Child Safety Seat Inspections

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 4-7 PM, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital
1st level of the Parking Garage

Wednesdays 10-1 PM *Mohegan Tribe
Eagle View Garage, Sandy Desert Road * Uncasville

1st and 3rd Friday of the Month *10-1 PM
Norwich Fire Department * 10 North Thames Street

*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

“SIDS Prevention”

Safe Kids Offers Safe Sleep Tips

To minimize the risk of SIDS, babies need to sleep on their backs, facing up. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SIDS is defined as the sudden death of an infant less than one year of age that cannot be explained after a thorough investigation is conducted. SIDS is the leading cause of death among infants aged one to 12 months, and is the third leading cause overall of infant mortality in the United States.

“Babies need to sleep face up, on their backs, until they’re old enough to turn themselves over,” says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids coordinator. “The phrase “*back to sleep*” has saved hundreds of lives. Since the start of the *Back to Sleep* campaign in 1994, when public health professionals started teaching new parents to lay a baby on his or her back to sleep, the death rate from SIDS has decreased by more than 70%.”

Most infant suffocation — 60 percent — happens in the sleeping environment as a result of pillows/cushions blocking their airway while sleeping. Babies can suffocate when their faces become wedged against or buried in a mattress, pillow, infant cushion or other soft bedding or when someone in the same bed rolls over onto them.

The AAP also found a higher risk of SIDS in babies with a high body temperature and recommends that the air temperature in the nursery should be “comfortable for a lightly clothed adult” and the baby should not be bundled in too much clothing. Also, there is some evidence of a higher risk of SIDS in babies who are exposed to secondhand smoke.

Based on the AAP’s report, Safe Kids also recommends these precautions for babies who cannot yet turn themselves over:

*The safest place for the baby to sleep is in a safety-approved crib with a JPMA (Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association) label indicating that it meets national safety standards.

*Make sure the baby’s crib has a firm, tight-fitting mattress (no more than two fingers of space between crib and mattress) and that is free of all plastic wrappings. Use tight-fitting bottom sheets that are made for crib mattresses. Never use adult sheets as a substitution.



Remove pillows, comforters, stuffed toys and other soft products from the crib.

For warmth, use infant sleepwear or crib-sized blankets tucked under the mattress so they do not reach above the baby’s chest; do not use adult-sized blankets.

Offer a clean, dry pacifier to the baby at bedtime, but do not force the baby to take it. If the baby is breastfed, wait until he or she is 1 month old or is used to breastfeeding. There is evidence that pacifiers may help protect sleeping babies from SIDS.

Crib bumpers are not necessary, but if used, they should be firm, thin and securely tied to the crib.

Do not rely on home monitors, consumer products or medical devices to prevent SIDS. No such products have been shown to be effective.

To prevent the baby’s head from developing a flat spot in back, allow plenty of “tummy time” for the baby while awake and constantly supervised. Don’t leave a baby in a carrier or bouncer all day.

“It’s worth repeating: lay your baby back to sleep,” says Pendola. “The single most powerful step you can take to reduce the risk of SIDS is to make sure babies under six months always sleep on their backs, facing up, on a firm surface without soft objects around.”

A big thanks to all our volunteers who helped organize and implement the BEST Walk to School Day that New London County has ever had! Over 700 children learned about walking safely to school.

FREE EVENT
Join us!
November 22nd
Healthy Habits Showcase
Mohegan Sun Uncas
Ballroom
10-4PM
Activities will include:
Pedestrian Safety Game
PAWZ & Wags... pet our
therapy dog friends and
learn how to be safe
around animals
Water safety wheel
BUZZZZZ box.. poisoning
prevention
Safety House..
LOTS OF PRIZES!



Recalls

Description: This recall involves the Nerf N-Strike Recon CS-6 Blasters for children age 6 and up. The toy blaster is yellow with a black handle and orange plunger, trigger, and reload clip.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled toy blasters away from children and contact Hasbro for a free cylindrical cover to prevent additional injuries.

Consumer Contact: For more information, contact Hasbro toll-free at (800) 245-0910 anytime or visit the firm's Web site at

www.hasbro.com/nerf



Stroller Activity Bars Recalled by International Playthings Due to Choking Hazard

Name of Product: Taggies™ Strollin' Along Stroller Activity Bars

Hazard: The shiny material on the elephant's ear on the activity bar can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

Description: This recall involves the Taggies™ Strollin' Along stroller activity bars. The multicolored, fabric, and plastic activity bars feature a yellow giraffe, a purple hippo and a blue elephant attached to a 12" long elliptical base with straps that attach to a stroller. The Taggies™ and Earlyears® logos are located on woven and satin labels sewn into the

seam on the lower left front of the activity bar.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the activity bars and contact International Playthings for a free replacement toy.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact International Playthings at (800) 445-8347 or visit the company's Web site at

www.intplay.com



Kids II Inc. Recalls Crib Toys Due to Choking Hazard

Name of Product: Baby Einstein Baby Neptune™ Soothing Seascape Crib Toys

Hazard: The anchors that hold the straps to the back of the turtle can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

Incidents/Injuries: Kids II has received 23 reports of anchors breaking. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The Baby Einstein Baby Neptune Soothing Seascape crib toy is a plastic molded turtle with a toy aquarium body that has woven fabric straps that attach to the side rails of a crib. The toy turtle has a stuffed fabric head and feet. Model number 30858 is printed on the label on the leg of the turtle. Only crib toys manufactured in October 2007 with date code BJ7 printed on the back of the battery compartment, are included in the recall.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled crib toys and contact Kids II to receive a free replacement toy.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Kids II toll-free at (866) 203-6788 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.kidsii.com



Hasbro Inc. Recalls to Repair Nerf Blasters; Child's Skin Can Get Caught in Plunger of the Toy

Name of Products: Nerf™ N-Strike Recon Blasters

Hazard: The blaster's plunger can pull the user's skin during firing of the toy blaster resulting in injury to the face, neck, and/or chest.

For more
recalls visit:

www.recalls.gov