

Safe Nursery News



Safe Nursery Action Group Members:

Nan Peterson
SAFEKIDS Coordinator
UW Children's Hospital
(608) 262-9993

Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne
City of Madison
Dept of Public Health

Mary Bradley
City of Madison
Dept of Public Health

Amy Vieth
Dane County
Div. of Public Health

John E Stanley
Dane County Coroner

Michelle Reinen
Product Safety Section
WI DATCP
(608) 224-4988

Contents:

Hidden Dangers at Garage Sales & Resale Shops
Babywalkers
Playyards & Playpens
Used Car Seats
Drawstrings
Cribs

Watch Out for Hidden Dangers at Garage Sales & Resale Shops

Many people unknowingly purchase or sell dangerous and recalled items at garage sales or resale shops.

In a 1999 study conducted by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, it was discovered that over 69% of all resale shops visited had at least one dangerous or recalled product for sale. These products included: used cribs, recalled playyards, used child safety seats, children's clothing with drawstrings and recalled toys. These same items are often sold in garage sales or donated to these resale shops.

For you and your family's safety, when shopping, selling or donating items, be cautious. Watch out for recalled items or items that do not meet current safety standards. Follow the safety tips below when looking for nursery items.



BABYWALKERS

Baby walkers are the single most dangerous nursery product for a child. They can cause considerable risk of injury and even death. In addition, walkers do not help a child to walk; they can actually delay normal motor and mental development.

Injury Facts

- 39 infant walker-related deaths were reported from 1973-2001.
- Walkers were responsible for 5,100 children under 15 months being treated in emergency rooms in 2001. Most of these falls results from falls down stairs.
- Infants in walkers can move at speeds of more than 3 ft/sec.

The Risks

A majority of walker injuries occur from falls down stairs, and head injuries are common. Burns and poisonings have also resulted from an infant's increased mobility in a walker. They have also contributed to infants drowning, suffocating and pinching fingers & toes. Seventy eight percent of children injured while in a walker were being supervised by an adult.

Prevention Tips

Nothing can substitute for spending time with a child, but when a short break is needed, playyards*, playpens* & highchairs can be safe alternatives with adult supervision.

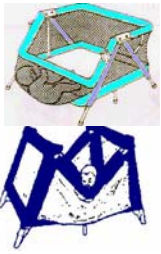
(*See article on Playyards & Playpens for additional safety information.)

Informational Resources

US Consumer Product Safety Commission
American Academy of Pediatrics
SAFEKIDS
WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

www.cpsc.gov
www.aap.org
www.safekids.org
www.datcp.state.wi.us





PLAYYARDS & PLAYPENS

Playyards & Playpens may be a good place to monitor your infant. However, if used without regular inspection, it could quickly become a death trap.

Injury Facts

- There have been at least 16 deaths from entrapment and collapsed playpens that had rotating hinges.
- Eight strangulation deaths have occurred from protruding rivets in playpens and portable cribs.

The Risks

Playpens or portable cribs with rotating hinges may collapse and entrap the child's neck. The mesh on playpens may collapse, trap and suffocate an infant. Infants can also catch pacifier strings or clothing on protruding rivets and strangle.

Prevention Tips

- Check for recalls – At least 5 manufacturers have recalled their playpens & playyards.
- After setting up the playyard or playpen, be sure it is securely locked in place. Regularly inspect the hinges for loose and protruding parts and the mesh for tears and holes before each use.
- Never use wooden playpens with slats wider than 2 3/8 inches apart.

USED CHILD SAFETY SEATS

Used child safety seats can be dangerous when the seat history is unknown. According to NHTSA, a seat that has been in a crash may not be safe for re-use in a vehicle. Following a crash, the child safety seat may have cracks or other structural damage that you cannot see. (www.nhtsa.gov)

In addition, it is recommended that seats not be used any longer than 6 years from the date of manufacture. Safety standards for child safety seats have been considerably upgraded over the years. Therefore an older seat may not meet the latest standard.

It can be difficult to determine, on a used child safety seat, if all parts (e.g. harness straps, retainer clips, padding, tether straps, bolts, and instruction booklet) are present and in good working order.

Finally, used child safety seats may be missing compliance labels that provide important information regarding the model and date of manufacture. This information is necessary in the case of a recall.

The safest practice is NOT to use or donate used seats.

DRAWSTRINGS



Since 1993, there has been at least 1 death and 5 serious injuries caused by drawstring entanglement.

The Risks

Drawstrings can get caught on playground or other equipment, strangling a child. The drawstrings also have the potential of getting caught in vehicle doors, resulting in the child being dragged underneath.

Prevention Tips

- Remove all strings from your child's clothing.
- Convert the drawstring in your child's clothing to elastic enclosures. Contact the WI Bureau of Consumer Protection for a free conversion brochure: 1-800-422-7128

USED & OLDER CRIBS

An unsafe, used crib could be very dangerous for your baby. Each year 50 babies suffocate or strangle in cribs with older, unsafe designs.

The Risks

- An infant's body or head can become entrapped in crib slats that are greater than 2 3/8 inches apart.
- Corner posts or knobs extending more than 1/16 of an inch can catch an infant's clothing posing a strangulation hazard.
- Hardware failures can create openings that can entrap a child.

Prevention Tips

- A firm, snug-fitting mattress should be used so a baby cannot get trapped between the mattress and the side of the crib.
- Inspect cribs for loose, broken or improperly-installed screws, brackets or other hardware.
- Regularly examine crib hardware and tighten all nuts, bolts & screws.
- Prevent strangulation by removing all crib toys which are strung across the crib when your child is beginning to push up on their hands and knees or is 5 months or age.
- Check for cracked or peeling paint - this may be a source of lead poisoning.

