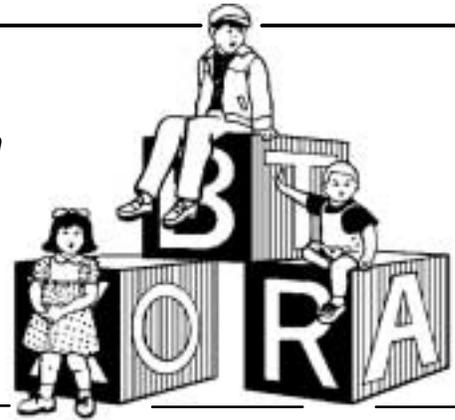


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.



North Dakota Department of Health

Fall 2001

Division of Maternal and Child Health

Boost, Then Buckle: A Statewide Campaign

The North Dakota Department of Health is conducting **Boost, Then Buckle**, a statewide campaign to promote booster seats for children who weigh between 40 and 80 pounds and who are less than 4 feet 8 inches tall. Information about booster seats will be distributed through public health units, physicians' offices and other sites that work with young children. For more information about **Boost, Then Buckle**, call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2286.

The Five-Step Test

Does your child's seat belt fit correctly? Most children between the ages of 4 and 8 (40 to 80 pounds) should use a booster seat to help the seat

belt fit properly. Try this five-step test:

1. Does your child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
2. Do your child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Is the lap belt on the top part of the thighs?
4. Is the shoulder belt centered on the shoulder and chest?
5. Can your child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If your answer to any of these questions is no, your child would be safer riding in a booster seat. Children like booster seats because they are more comfortable and allow the children to see out of the window.



BOOST, THEN BUCKLE

 ND Department of Health • ND Department of Transportation

Home Playground Deaths

A new report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) shows that during a 10-year period, more deaths to children occurred on backyard playgrounds than on public playgrounds. From 1990 to August 2000, the CPSC received reports of nearly 150 deaths to children younger than 15 involving playground equipment; at least 90 of these occurred in home settings. Almost three-fourths of deaths in home locations resulted from hangings from ropes, cords, homemade rope swings and other similar items. New safety standards aimed at reducing the risk of strangulation require that ropes be secured at both ends and that makers of home equipment warn against attaching additional ropes.

CPSC's study also found that only 9 percent of home playgrounds had protective, shock-absorbing surfacing. Dirt and grass, which are the most common surfaces under home playground equipment, do not adequately protect children from serious head injuries.

To help prevent injuries from falls and other hazards on home playgrounds, the following safety tips are recommended:

- Install and maintain at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5



feet high or use surfacing mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

- Install protective surfacing at least 6 feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, the surface should extend, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- Never attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines or pet leashes to the equipment. This can present a serious strangulation hazard to children.
- Smooth sharp points or edges and cover open "S" hooks or protruding bolts.
- Check for openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs. Spaces should be either less than 3¹/₂ inches or more than 9 inches so that they don't present entrapment hazards.
- Always supervise young children to make sure they are safe.

Safety Latches Recalled

CPSC and Safety 1st are recalling about 1.7 million packages of safety latches used to prevent children from opening cabinets and drawers. If the safety latch breaks, a small spring could be released. Young children could choke on the small spring or gain access to a cabinet or drawer where dangerous items are stored.

The latches are made of white plastic with a spring that holds the latch closed. The straight ends of the metal springs are uncovered on the recalled latches. The latches were sold in packages of three or four. The replacement latches have a plastic tab over the short, straight end of the metal spring.

Toy, hardware and department stores nationwide sold the set from January 1993 through December 1999. Consumers should immediately contact Safety 1st for free replacement latches. For more information, call Safety 1st at 800.366.1282.

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www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/pubs/index.htm#Building Blocks



Activity Gyms Recalled

K•B Toys and CPSC are recalling 115,000 Electronic Light N' Learn activity gyms. Five detachable hanging rattle toys have small round pegs at the top that can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The activity gym is a multicolored toy that converts into three different toys, including a crib toy, a floor gym and a musical keyboard. A label under the handle on the gym's main console reads in part "Electronic Light N' Learn Activity Gym Model: 8735, Made in China."

K•B Toy stores, K•B Toy Works, K•B Toy Outlet, Big Lots, Odd Lots, Pic N Save and MacFrugals nationwide sold the toys from September 2000 through January 2001. Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately and return the toys to the stores where purchased for refunds. Consumers who purchased the toys online should return them to the closest K•B Toy store or contact K•B Toys for return information. For additional information, contact K•B Toys at 800.279.5066.



Portable Bassinets Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Fisher-Price are recalling about 600,000 portable bassinets. Children and adults can be injured when their fingers are pinched or cut between parts of the folding mechanism.



The recalled bassinet, which converts to an infant seat with a vibrating unit, is supported by a white metal folding frame that makes it portable. Covered in a blue-and-white print fabric with stars, swirls and hearts, the bassinet was sold under the names Sit & Soothe Portable Bassinet, Soothing Sounds Bassinet and Soothing Sounds Portable Bassinet. "Fisher-Price" and model number 79338, 79334 or 79336 appear on the upper left-hand corner of a white nylon label located on the underside of the foot of the bassinet. Bassinets manufactured before April 2000 are included in this recall.

Toy, mass merchandise and discount stores nationwide sold these portable bassinets from November 1997 through March 2001. Consumers should stop using these portable bassinets immediately and contact Fisher-Price at 800.285.0324 to order free repair kits. The repair kit will prevent the frame from folding.

Children's Bikes Recalled

CPSC and Acetrike Bicycle Co. are recalling about 40,000 bicycles. (Huffy Bicycle Co. is a distributor of Acetrike.) The frames on these bikes can break, causing the riders to fall and suffer injuries. The recall includes bicycles that have date codes of April 2000 and earlier. The date code is molded on the bike's left rear frame. The following models are included in the recall:

Cool Taz	Sweet Tweety
Mudslinger	Secret Treasures
Rugrats	Best Friends
Space Racer	Fairy Magic
MX1200	High Gear MX 18000

Discount department, toy, hardware and sporting goods stores — including Ace Hardware, Ames,

Blain Supply, Kay Bee Toys, Meijers, Tru Serv and Wal-Mart — sold these bikes nationwide from October through March 2001.

Consumers should stop riding these bikes immediately and call 888.366.3828 to determine if their bicycles are included in the recall. Consumers who have recalled bikes will receive replacement bikes free of charge.



Kitty Kitty Kittens Recalled

CPSC and DSI are recalling about 238,000 stuffed toy kittens. The kittens contain contaminated water that, if contacted, could cause illness to children.

The Kitty Kitty Kittens are about 12-inches long. They make a purring noise when petted on the head. They come in six styles: Buttons, Tiger, Calico, Mittens, Tawny and Fluffy. The kitten's name and item number, "16400," are printed on a hangtag attached to its ear. A tag attached to the toy reads "DSI TOYS INC." and "MADE IN CHINA." The water in the kitten toy is intended to make it feel more lifelike.

Discount, specialty and toy stores nationwide sold the kitten toys from September 2000 through May

2001. Consumers should take these kittens away from children immediately and call DSI Toys at 800.628.8882 to receive free replacement toys.



Multi-Use Strollers Recalled

CPSC and Century Products are recalling about 650,000 strollers. The strollers can unexpectedly collapse or the car seat/carrier adapters can unexpectedly detach. When this occurs, an infant or young child can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries.

The recalled strollers are for toddlers when used alone and for infants when a car seat/carrier is connected to the stroller. The model names for the recalled strollers can be found on the footrest, the

seat pad, the legs of the frame or on a white label on the side locks. The stroller model names include:

Take 2
Pioneer
Pro Sport

Travel Solutions
Travelite

Mass merchandise, juvenile products and discount department stores nationwide sold these strollers from December 1996 through March 2001. Consumers should stop using these strollers and call Century at 800.766.9998 to order free repair kits.

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