

“Button” Battery Safety Alert!

You know those little cute batteries that are found in your digital thermometers, singing greeting cards, bathroom scales, and several toys and books that your kids interact with daily? Not only is there a risk of your child choking on these batteries, but once the battery is in their system it can literally burn a hole through their stomach, or throat, depending on where the battery gets stuck in their body.

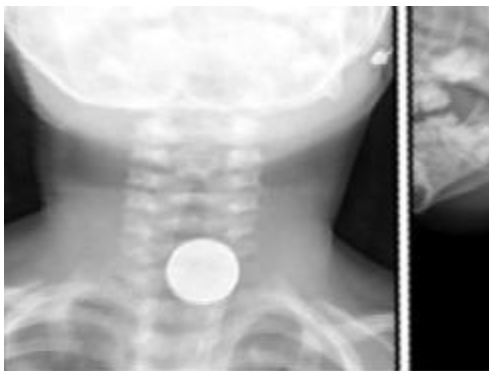
A button battery is the same size as a nickel and can be easily removed from your bathroom scale, greeting card, as well as many remote controls and toys that your toddler can easily access. If a child swallows a battery, their symptoms can often be misdiagnosed.

Susan Koeppen, a correspondent of the Early Show, aired an interesting story about these particular batteries. She told the story of Kaiden Vasquez, a 13 month old, who had swallowed a button battery.

Koeppen stated that the symptoms mimic the flu with vomiting, fever, cough and lack of appetite. In this case, the emergency room misdiagnosed the child's symptoms. Initially, they sent the mother home saying that Kaiden had the stomach flu. After a week when Kaiden still wasn't feeling well, they took an x-ray and were able to figure out what the real problem was. Kaiden had a lithium button battery lodged in his esophagus; it had unfortunately burned a whole in his throat.

After a long recovery period, Kaiden Vasquez has fully recovered from this ordeal. But several children have died or suffered permanent damage from swallowing these types of batteries.

To read the full story and view the video, please click on the image below:



[Full Story on Early Show](#)

The toy manufacturers are already aware of this problem. Most toys will have the battery compartment secured so that your child cannot easily get to them. The problem is with devices that are not typically used or thought to be used by toddlers or preschoolers. The digital bathroom scale is a good example. I was able to remove the battery from mine using just one finger. Greeting cards are also very dangerous; do not let your toddler or preschooler chew on the card. It may be adorable when they are doing it, but think of the consequences if they were to swallow that little battery.

Manufacturers of devices that use these batteries are working to make their products safer for all age groups. Until they get to the point where everything is safe for everyone, please be careful. Keep these batteries away from your little ones!

Written by Karen Hawk Bridge (examiner.com)