


Colorado toddler swallowed a battery which burned a hole in his throat

 dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3442518/Toddler-2-swallowed-battery-burned-hole-throat-left-unable-eat.html

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Toddler, 2, swallowed a battery which burned a hole in his throat and left him unable to eat

- **Logan Stiff needed emergency surgery and spent 3 weeks in hospital**
- **He has since had various operations to repair his throat and keep it open**
- **It is thought he ingested the battery after it fell out of a remote control**
- **Lithium batteries react with saliva causing a build up of caustic soda**

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A toddler is lucky to be alive after he swallowed a battery which burned a hole through his throat.

Logan Stiff, two, needed emergency surgery and spent weeks in hospital after ingesting the 'button' battery.

He can now only eat through a tube and must have regular treatment to stretch open his oesophagus.

It is thought the toddler put it in his mouth thinking it was a sweet after it fell out of the back of a remote control.

Within hours of being picked up from nursery, he was struggling to breathe and began vomiting.



Logan Stiff, two, needed emergency surgery and spent weeks in hospital after ingesting the 'button' battery



Logan pictured in November last year aged 23 months after the drain was removed and his neck was healed

His parents, Jackie, 38, and Andrew, 34, who had no idea what was wrong, rushed him to Children's Colorado Hospital - where doctors spotted the deadly battery on an x-ray.

'When we saw Logan in intensive care that was the first time we really understood what had happened to our son - the damage and the long road ahead of us in the healing process,' said Mr Stiff.

'Most people would know to keep other obvious things away from children - chemicals and medicines - but button batteries don't cross their minds.

'We had no idea how dangerous these batteries could be, nor did most of our friends and family.'

'It was a shocking realisation and we wanted to make sure everyone we knew could learn about this too.'

Logan was 17 months old when he swallowed the battery at a home daycare centre in Colorado.

There has been no indication of negligence or health and safety breaches on the part of the daycare centre, which has not been named.



An A-ray showing the lithium button battery which became lodged in Logan's throat before doctors removed it (right in tub). It burned a hole in his oesophagus and he has needed various surgeries

Logan spent three weeks in hospital after a battery burned a hole in his throat. It is thought he put it in his mouth thinking it was a sweet. His parents are now warning others about the dangers of them

When Mrs Stiff, a secretary, picked him up after work he was vomiting and had a fever.



WHY ARE THEY SO DANGEROUS?

The slim type of battery are dangerous because children can mistake them for sweets and the size causes them to get stuck in the throat.

When the battery gets stuck, it sets up an electrical current when it comes in contact with the lining of the throat, creating a build-up of caustic soda which causes horrific burns.

Even after the battery has been removed it can continue to cause serious injury and burns.

Although new batteries are more toxic, even ones that no longer work are dangerous and parents are being advised to store and dispose of them carefully.

A demonstration on a hot dog, designed to replicate human flesh, showed how it burns and melts away in three hours.

She assumed he had caught a bug from another child but within an hour he was lethargic and struggling to breathe.

When doctors discovered the cause, his parents had no idea how serious the situation was.

Lithium batteries react with saliva - creating an electrical current which causes a build-up of caustic soda.

This burned a hole in Logan's oesophagus and he spent weeks in intensive care after having an operation to remove the battery.

He was fitted with a feeding tube and spit fistula to drain his saliva but struggled to breathe on his own.

Further surgery was needed to separate his oesophagus from his trachea and began to breathe independently.

Amazingly, as he recovered and became able to speak softly again.

He underwent another operation in September to reconnect his oesophagus.

It is also prone to closing so must be stretched back open regularly with an inflating balloon-like device.



Logan is still mainly fed through a tube after his throat was damaged by the battery. Lithium batteries react with saliva - creating an electrical current which causes a build-up of caustic soda and burns through the skin

The toddler is now able to eat and drink but is still fed primarily through a feeding tube and has some loss of functionality in one of his vocal cords.

'We are very happy to see Logan recovering so well and just being a happy kid again,' said Mr Stiff.

Most people would know to keep other obvious things away from children - chemicals and medicines - but button batteries don't cross their minds

Andrew Stiff, 34

'We always believed he would get better, but the lowest point was when he failed to breathe on his own.

'It was frustrating as a parent to not be able to do anything at all to help him.

'Now he can speak just fine, and if you watched him run around you'd never know anything was wrong with him.

'He is a fighter - he is resilient and will continue to thrive.'

The couple share updates on Logan's condition on a dedicated Facebook page - Logan and the Button Battery -in a bid to raise awareness of the dangers of the batteries, often used in key fobs, hearing aids, children's toys and musical greetings cards.

Mr Stiff said 'We feel very lucky as there have been children who have died from swallowing button batteries when they caused a burn to an artery.

HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE AND WHAT TO DO IF THE WORST HAPPENS

1. **KEEP OUT OF REACH:** Keep devices with button batteries out of reach if the battery compartments aren't secure and lock away and loose or spare batteries
2. **TAKE THEM TO HOSPITAL:** If a child swallows a button battery or gets one stuck in their nose or ear take them straight to the nearest A&E department
3. **NIL BY MOUTH:** Do not let them eat or drink anything and do not try to make them sick
4. **GET HELP FAST:** It is important to get to hospital as soon as possible and the sooner the battery can be removed the less chance of permanent damage



5. SHARE THIS MESSAGE: Campaigners want people to spread the word so people know what to do if the worst does happen

'Our main advice is to be aware of everything that uses these batteries. It's impossible to watch a child every second of the day and things can happen quickly.

'We can't prevent all accidents but we can come close by getting information to everyone.'

The UK Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is concerned by the dangers posed by button batteries, which have caused deaths in Britain.

Sheila Merrill, RoSPA's public health advisor, said: 'Young children are naturally inquisitive, and explore the world in part by putting things in their mouths.

'As more and more electronic items are introduced into the family home, the potential for children to swallow button batteries increases, and this can lead to choking or poisoning.

'We want parents, grandparents, childminders and carers to be aware of the danger and understand that these seemingly harmless little batteries can cause serious injury to children.'