

# Hidden household danger for children

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In a matter of a few days, the lives of the Rauch family were forever and profoundly altered by something the size of a nickel. Now, Karla Rauch hopes to prevent any other families from going through the trial and tragedy she and her family has endured.

It happened in October of 2012 when Emmett was just a year old. His mother Karla, mom to a son 3 years older realized her son was acting unlike his usual self and did not have an appetite.

A trip to Urgent Care and a diagnosis of a cold sent them home to wait it out.

When things did not improve, an x-ray showed Emmett had swallowed two button batteries from the back of a DVD remote.

They had been stuck in his throat for days, burning his esophagus. Doctors at Phoenix Children's Hospital say the battery acid created chemical burns and holes and left him in extremely critical.

He underwent a 9 hour surgery to remove 2 inches of his damaged esophagus and spent 3 weeks in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. (PICU). Since then, Emmett has roughly 30 additional procedures and surgeries to repair the damaged esophagus and has a daily fight.

He is fed through a tube in his stomach, has a tube in his throat to aid in breathing, has had to re-learn how to swallow and is only 2 and a half years old.

In addition to remotes, Karla says the hidden danger of small batteries lurk in bathroom scales, phones and even musical books and greeting cards. Her mission, in addition to helping her son in his battle that lies ahead is to prevent similar accidents for other families through spreading awareness.

She has worked to create an awareness video which can be viewed on her website, is creating a non-profit foundation and is planning a walk/run to educate parents and caregivers.

You can 'like' the Emmett's Fight Facebook page to show your support and help spread awareness and follow Emmett's progress through his website and blog.

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