Button Battery Dangers for Kids

The number of children being treated in emergency rooms across the country for swallowing button batteries is increasing.

A study published recently in Pediatrics showed that between 1990 and 2009, there were 66,000 ER visits by kids under 18 in the U.S. because of batteries.

The same study showed that 84% of the visits were because the batteries were swallowed.

Button batteries are often very small and coin sized and are found in things like watches, hearing aids and toys.

Wanda Willis, with the Central Shenandoah Valley Safe Kids Coalition, says the most common source of the batteries today is from musical greeting cards.

"The bottom line is everyone likes those cards, they are very cute. and I love the cards too," Willis said.

"So we want to make sure once we get the cards we either take out the battery and dispose of it properly or make sure you put those cards away where the kids can't get them."

In addition to parent vigilance, there is also a growing push for manufacturer's to make battery compartments more child resistant.

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