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Batteries Can be Choking Hazards

Curious toddlers like to stick just about anything in their mouths, but a new study shows you should be cautious with what toys and household objects you're letting them play with.

Posted: 6:35 PM May 26, 2010

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[Batteries Can be Choking Hazards](#)





GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (KKCO)- Curious toddlers like to stick just about anything in their mouths, but a new study shows you should be cautious with what toys and household objects you're letting them play with.

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If swallowed, batteries like lithium ones could burn holes in your child's esophagus, and the National [Capital](#) Poison Center says the condition can be fatal if you don't treat it right away.

Newly released findings show there's been a huge increase in the number of kids who swallow and choke on batteries.

Researchers are crediting it to the widespread use of lithium and round cell batteries in kids toys, remotes for electronics, and even musical greeting cards.

The majority of kids who choke on such batteries are under the age of 4.

Pediatricians say you should always be aware of what your kids are playing with because their curious minds can find a way to any battery.

Dr. Michael Whistler says, "I think you have to be extra conscious now with things that make a noise or have lights in them because those all have a battery in them some where and kids are really good at getting those batteries out. Those greeting cards that have batteries in them, all you have to do is get that paper wet and tear it open and then the battery's right in your hand."

It's the 3 volt current the batteries contain that Whistler says could burn the throat or even close the airway to restrict breathing.

Whistler says it's better to be safe than sorry if you think your child has swallowed a battery. Call 911 if the child can't breathe, or your pediatrician if the airway's not completely blocked.

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