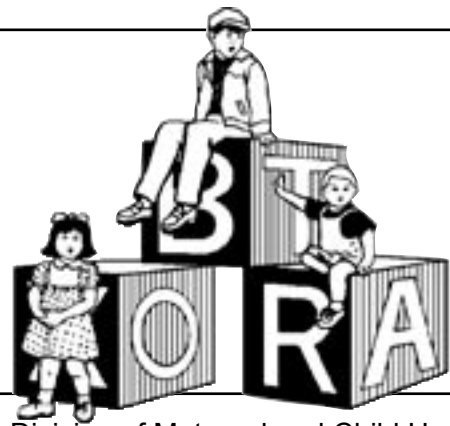


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention
of childhood injuries



North Dakota Department of Health

Summer 2003

Division of Maternal and Child Health

6-Year-Old Saved by Helmet!



Nicolette Brammer, with McLean County Health, instructs a group of children and their parents on the reasons why wearing a bike helmet is so important. Alyssa Simms, fourth child from the left, was saved by her helmet. (Photo courtesy from the Leader-News)

One hour after Alyssa Simms received her bike helmet from First District Health Unit in McLean County, she lost control of her bike, flew off and landed right on her head. The bright blue helmet

she was wearing was dented and scuffed, but her head was not. Although she did receive a bruise where her helmet hit the pavement, she was okay and was able to walk away from her crash shaken but unharmed. Alyssa, hopefully, is one of many children in North Dakota who will be saved by their helmet.

Every year, public health and other agencies throughout North Dakota promote bike safety. North Dakota Department of Health distributes approximately 3,000 helmets to agencies that offer bike safety programs in their communities. The department encourages bike safety because statistics show that bike helmets can prevent about 85 percent of head injuries if worn properly. For more information on bike safety, call the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2286.

DEET Safety Precautions For Kids

(from the American Academy of Pediatrics)

What is DEET? DEET (N,N-diethyl-metoluamide) is the active ingredient in many insect repellent products used to repel biting pests such as mosquitoes, ticks and jiggers. It is the most effective insect repellent available, but there are some safety precautions that need to be followed when using insect repellents containing DEET on children.

The concentration of DEET in products may range from less than 10 percent to over 30 percent. The

effectiveness of DEET plateaus at a concentration of 30 percent, the maximum concentration currently acceptable for children. DEET should not be used on children under two months of age. The major difference in the effectiveness of products relates to the length of action. For example, products with concentrations around 10 percent are effective for periods of approximately two hours and products with a concentration of about 24 percent have been shown to provide an average of five hours of protection.

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A careful approach would be to select the lowest concentration effective for the amount of time spent outdoors. It is recommended that DEET should not be applied more than once a day. Repeated application may increase the potential toxic effects of DEET.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Environmental Health offers the following information:

- The concentration of DEET varies significantly from product to product, so read the label of any product you purchase.
- Apply DEET sparingly on exposed skin; do not use under clothing.
- Do not use DEET on the hands of young children and avoid applying to areas around the eyes and mouth.
- Do not use DEET over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Wash treated skin with soap and water after returning indoors. Wash treated clothing.
- Avoid spraying in enclosed areas. Do not use DEET near food.

Toy Farms Recalled

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Fisher-Price are recalling about

67,000 Little People Animal Sounds Farms. Two small metal screws that hold the stall doors in place can come off, posing an aspiration or choking hazard to young children.

The recalled toy's model number (77973 or 77746) can be found on the underside of the green ramp.

Mass merchants and toy stores nationwide sold these toys between July 2002 and December 2002. Consumers should take the toy away from young children immediately and contact Fisher-Price toll-free at 866.259.7873.



Bears and Snowman Recalled



jacket of these toys can be pulled off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The 10-inch plush bears are white and dressed in a hat and a jacket with multiple colors. The 10-inch snowman dolls are dressed in a hat and jacket that are blue and pink. Dollar Tree, Only One Dollar, Only \$1, Dollar Express and Dollar Bills stores nationwide sold these toys from June 2002 to March 2003.

Consumers should take these toys away from young children immediately and return the toys to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information call Dollar Tree AT 800.876.8077.

CPSC and Dollar Tree Stores Inc. are recalling about 407,000 plush bears and 221,000 snowman dolls. Buttons on the



Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov

<http://www.health.state.nd.us>

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This newsletter can be accessed at
www.ndmch.com/injury-prevention/publications.asp



BMX Bikes Recalled

CPSC and Dynacraft Industries Inc. are recalling about 53,000 BMX bikes. The stems on the bikes can loosen during use, causing riders to lose control and fall. The recall includes the Next Voltage and Vertical Street Blade models, both 20-inch bikes. The model name is written on the bike frame.

Wal-Mart stores sold the bikes nationwide from May 2002 to November 2002. Pamida stores sold the bikes from April 2002 to April 2003. Consumers should stop using these bikes and contact Dynacraft Industries at 800.288.1560.



Crawl 'n Stand Toys Recalled

CPSC and Playskool are recalling 300,000 Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand toys. The toy, which is designed to encourage crawling babies to pull themselves up and stand, can tip over during use and strike falling babies in the head, face or neck, resulting in injuries.



The Playskool Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand is a multicolor plastic toy with a round base and three arched legs that support an electronic activity center. The Playskool logo is imprinted on the plastic base and on top of the activity center. Writing under the activity center includes "ITEM #06952."

Wal-Mart stores nationwide sold these toys from November 2002 through April 2003. Consumers should take this toy away from children immediately and contact Playskool for information on how to return the product and receive a free replacement item of similar value. For more information call Playskool at 800.509.9554.

Baby's Dream Cribs Recalled

Baby's Dream Furniture and CPSC are recalling more than 4,600 convertible cribs to repair hinges on the drop gate. The three hinges along the fold-down drop gate can crack or break, allowing babies to pinch their fingers.

Also, the drop gate trigger latches may not align correctly and fit securely into the strike plate, allowing a child to fall out of the crib.

The recalled cribs were sold under either the Baby's Dream Furniture label or the National Baby Furniture



label in five different models. The models included in the recall are: Always Crib, Crib 4 Life, Legendary Crib, Set 4 Life and Crib-2-College. The wooden cribs are honey, amber or cherry in color.

Consumers owning these Baby's Dream cribs should call Baby's Dream at 800.835.2742 to receive a repair kit for hinges and/or latches.

Unsafe Cribs Recalled

Babi Italia and CPSC are recalling 2,000 cribs. The slats on the drop-side rails can come loose or detach. A child's head can get caught in the space left by loose or missing slats or children can fall through the slat opening.



Cribs included in the recall are the Tiffany and Josephine models. They are made of solid natural wood with a chest of drawers attached to the footboard and can be converted into a toddler bed and an adult bed.

Babies R Us sold the cribs exclusively from July 2001 through January 2003. Consumers should immediately stop using the cribs and contact LaJobi at 877.440.2224 to receive replacement drop-side rails at.

Bee Bop Band Drumsticks Recalled

CPSC and Battat Inc. are recalling about 300,000 sets of toy drumsticks sold with the Parents Bee Bop Band drum sets. The end piece of the drumstick handle can break off and/or the screw at the end of the drumstick can loosen and detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The centipede-shaped drumsticks are 10-inches long and were sold in either lime green or blue with black stripes.

Target, Sam's Club and smaller retailers sold the drums sets nationwide from November 2001 to March 2003. Consumers should immediately take these drumsticks away from young children and contact Battat at 866.617.9137 for a replacement set of drumsticks.

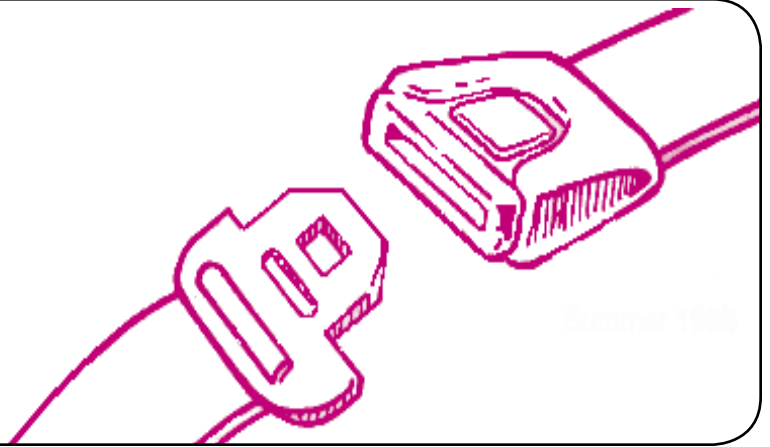


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The Buckle Update



NHTSA Rates Ease of Use of Child Restraints

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has released its ratings of child restraints. The rating system was required by the TREAD Act passed by Congress in 2000.

NHTSA evaluated child restraints in the following categories:

- Whether the child restraint was ready to use out of the box or assembly was required
- Clarity of labels on the child restraint
- Clarity of instructions
- Ease of securing the child in the restraint
- Presence of features that make installation easier

Restraints were given an overall score of “A,” “B” or “C” based on a composite of category scores. NHTSA believes the Ease of Use Ratings Program will educate consumers about child safety seat features that will assist them in selecting the appropriate seat for their child’s needs.

It is important to note that the Ease of Use Ratings Program does not compare the performance of different child restraints in a crash. However, the rating system may indirectly affect safety by helping consumers purchase a restraint that should be less difficult to use, and therefore, reduce misuse rates.

For more information, visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov and click on “Child Seat Ratings” or the Ease of Use Ratings icon.

Safety Upgrade Kit for Evenflo Infant Car Seat

Evenflo Company Inc. is offering a free safety upgrade kit to all owners of Evenflo Cozy Carry infant car seats. Although the car seats meet or exceed all federal safety standards, recent crash tests conducted by NHTSA lead Evenflo to believe that the performance of the detachable base in certain types of collisions may be improved with this free upgrade.

The kit is for Cozy Carry detachable bases only. The bases have the words “Cozy Carry” on them. They may have been sold individually, together with a Cozy Carry car seat, or in a travel system (with a car seat and matching stroller).

Consumers who own the Cozy Carry car seat should visit www.cozycarry.com or call 1.800.582.6698 to receive a free kit.



Child Passenger Safety Summit Highlights Issues

(Taken from *Safe Ride News*, May/June 2003)

On June 2 and 3, a Child Passenger Safety Summit was held in South Carolina to assess current issues in the child passenger safety field and to develop recommendations to use as a guide during the next few years.

Although the recommendations are not yet finalized, here are some of the issues discussed at the summit:

- The new “forgotten” children are the eight to 15 year olds, who are less likely to ride in the back seat and to buckle up as they get older.
- The reduction of death and injury to children in the back seat is substantial, with or without airbags in the front and with or without restraint use.
- Crash data from Partners for Child Passenger Safety show the risk of injury to children aged four to seven using belt-positioning boosters

to be 59 percent lower than those using lap-shoulder belts.

- Observational usage surveys cannot accurately distinguish which children may be in backless boosters, shield boosters, lap-only belts or lap-shoulder belts.
- Side-impacts are particularly deadly. In fatal crashes involving children in child restraints in 2000, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that 34 percent of the deaths were caused by a side-impact.
- NHTSA is anticipating some confusion that could accompany the September 2003 introduction of advanced (frontal) air bags; and is encouraging a consistent message that children should continue to be seated in the back seat.

Cosco Extends Recall of Car Seats

In cooperation with CPSC and NHTSA, Dorel Juvenile Group is voluntarily recalling Cosco Arriva and Turnabout infant car seats/carriers to address a problem with the carry handle.

A previous recall issued on July 8, 1999 had recalled 670,000 of these seats made from March 1995 through September 1997. The new recall adds 1.2 million of the same model infant seat made through January 2000.

When the seat is used as a carrier, the plastic handle locks can unexpectedly break or release from the carrying position, causing the seat to unlatch or flip forward. When this happens, an infant can fall to the ground and suffer injuries.

Dorel has received 416 reports of the handle locks on the additional recalled infant seats/carriers breaking or unlatching, resulting in nine injuries to children.

The recalled Cosco Arriva and Turnabout brand names have the following model numbers:

Arriva

02-665 02-727 02-728 02-729 02-731 02-732
02-733 02-750 02-751 02-755 02-757 02-774

Turnabout

02-753 02-756 02-758 02-759 02-760 02-761
02-762 02-763 02-764 02-765 02-770 02-771
02-772

Consumers can continue using the Arriva and Turnabout as a car seat, but should stop using it as a carrier immediately and contact Dorel for a free repair kit. Consumers should call 1.800.880.9435 or visit the company’s website at www.djgusa.com.

