

Battery safety

Small disc or “button” batteries that are used in hearing aids, watches, toys, and many other items can cause serious harm if swallowed.

Most button batteries pass through the body and come out in the stool, but sometimes batteries get stuck inside the body and cause problems. A battery that does not move through the body may cause bleeding or tissue damage. When a battery is swallowed, it is impossible to know if it will pass through.

Safety tips

- Don't allow children to play with batteries or items with batteries that are easy to access.
- Keep batteries away from areas where they might be mixed up with food.

What should I do if my child swallows a battery?

1. Immediately call the **24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333** (call collect if necessary), or call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222.
2. If you can, give the battery identification number found on the package or a matching battery.

What should I do if the battery is in the nose or ear?

- Call your clinic right away. Button batteries may cause long-term damage if they are placed in the nose or the ears. Signs to watch for are pain and/or discharge from the nose or ears.
- DO NOT use nose or ear drops until a doctor has looked at your child. Drops can cause more harm if a battery is in the nose or ear.

Questions?

This sheet is not specific to your child, but provides general information. If you have any questions, please call your clinic. For more information about battery safety, you may contact:
www.poison.org/prevent/battery.asp

For more reading material about this and other health topics, please call or visit the Family Resource Center library, or visit childrensMN.org/A-Z.