



This family education sheet explains the dangers of button batteries and lithium coin batteries and what to do if your child swallows one.

Key points

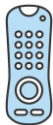
- If your child swallows a battery, go to the closest ED as fast as possible.
- Give your child honey on the way to the hospital.
- Keep button batteries out of the reach of children.

Why are button batteries and lithium coin batteries dangerous?

- If swallowed, a button battery or lithium coin battery can be serious and life-threatening.
- Every year in the United States, more than 3,500 people of all ages swallow button batteries.
- Button batteries can cause damage to a child's esophagus within just 2 hours.

What are button battery and lithium coin batteries in?

Common items button batteries are found in



Remote



Car remote



Musical card/
novelty items



Watch



Fake candle



Hearing aid



Torch keyring



Thermometer



Calculator



Kitchen scale

What do I do if I think my child swallowed one of these batteries?

- Take your child to an emergency room **right away!**
- **If you have honey at home:** Give 2 teaspoons of honey up to 6 doses, as long as your child is over age 12 months and can swallow liquids. Honey can help if your child has swallowed the battery in the past 12 hours.
- Give honey 2 teaspoons (10 ml) every 10 minutes on the way to the emergency room if there is another person with you. But don't wait to go to an emergency room in order to give honey.

Staying Safe – House Safety Check List

- Keep loose and spare batteries locked away. Store any product that uses button batteries or lithium coin batteries out of reach of curious children, and know what to do if they swallow one.
- Check every battery-powered device in and around your home and anywhere your children stays or plays.
- Make sure that the battery case is shut tight and secured. It's best to use devices that can only be opened using a tool, like a screwdriver. If the case isn't secure, keep the device where your child can't see or reach it.
- Re-check all battery cases to be sure they stay secure over time.
- Don't let small children play with things that might use button batteries. Keep these devices out of your child's sight and reach. If that's not possible, watch your child carefully while they play with things that use batteries.
- Store all loose batteries in a locked cabinet or box, out of reach or sight.
- A battery that no longer can power a device still has enough power to cause an injury. Throw away old batteries safely.

What are signs that my child swallowed a button battery?

Symptoms can be vague and appear to be other health conditions. Some of the most common symptoms include:

- Suddenly starting to cry (other children may not cry or be in pain)
- Drooling
- Decreased eating or drinking
- Difficulty swallowing
- Hoarse voice
- Vomiting
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Abdominal pain, blood in saliva and stool (poop)

Sources:

The National Poison Control Center. (2018). National Capital Poison Center Button Battery Ingestion Triage and Treatment Guideline. Retrieved from: <http://www.poison.org/>

The American Academy of Pediatrics (2019). Button Battery Task Force. Retrieved from: aap.org/en-us/advocacy/aap-helath-initiatives/Pages-Button-Battery.aspx