Q: What do a singing greeting card, a watch and a pen light have in common?
A: Button batteries.

Facts about button batteries
When a child swallows a button battery, the saliva triggers an electrical current. This causes a chemical reaction that can quickly burn the esophagus.

The scary part is that it may not be obvious at first that there is something wrong. Kids still can breathe and act normally after ingesting a battery, and the only symptoms they might exhibit are similar to those of a cold or the flu.

Top safety tips
- Be aware of where your child spends his or her time, and search those areas for gadgets that might contain button batteries.
- Keep small devices that use button batteries out of reach of small children. These include remote controls, key fobs, watches, pocket calculators, musical greeting cards and flameless candles.

Get treatment right away
If you suspect your child has ingested a battery, immediately go to the hospital.

Do not induce vomiting or have your child eat or drink anything until assessed by a medical professional.

Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 for additional information.
Playtime is a perfect time for babies to explore. Babies use their hands, mouths and eyes enjoying toys they can touch or squeeze.

**Perfect toys for tiny hands**
- Floor activity centers.
- Activity quilts.
- Soft dolls or stuffed animals without button noses and eyes.

**Toys to avoid**
- Recalled toys.
- Small, rounded or oval objects (like balls and marbles).
- Toys with strings, cords, lead or magnets.

**Top tips**
- Use stationary activity centers to help keep your baby in a safe location.
- When using baby swings or bouncy chairs, always strap in your baby.
- Read and follow recommended age and safety labels.
- Check all toys regularly for damage and remove from play if necessary.

---

**In the kitchen with kids**

Cookies, candies and other goodies are a common sight in homes during the holidays. Children of all ages enjoy spending time in the kitchen to help create these confections.

Decorating gingerbread men and putting sprinkles on cupcakes are easy tasks for most kids. Children who can follow directions may be ready to help out in the kitchen with other tasks that do not involve knives, appliances or heat.

Did you know that burns, such as those from spills, steam, hot surfaces or a flame, can be especially devastating injuries? Young children have thinner skin than adults do, so they burn more severely and at lower temperatures.

Keep the fun in the kitchen this holiday season by checking out this list of suggested activities that children of certain ages may be ready to handle:

**Children between 3 and 5 can:**
- Gather ingredients from the refrigerator and cupboards.
- Stir ingredients together in a bowl.
- Rinse foods under cold water.
- Use a cookie cutter to cut out shapes in dough.

**Children between 6 and 8 can:**
- Use a butter knife to spread frosting, peanut butter or soft cheese.
- Peel vegetables.
- Measure ingredients.
- Set the table.

**Children between 9 and 12 can:**
- Begin to follow recipes and help plan meals.
- Use electrical appliances such as blenders, food processors, electric mixers and microwaves with supervision.
- Turn stove burners on and off and select oven temperature when an adult is present.

**Children older than age 13 can:**
- Operate the stovetop.
- Drain cooked pasta into a colander.
- Remove a tray of cookies from the oven.
- Heat food in the microwave.

---

An actively supervised child is in sight and in reach at ALL times.

For more information, contact Safe Kids at 859-323-1153 or visit www.safekidsfayettecounty.com.

“Like” us on Facebook.