

How can a dummy injure my child?

Choking: The teat or small pieces from the dummy may break off and become lodged in your child's throat. The whole dummy could also become stuck in your child's mouth and block their air supply.

Strangulation: Attaching a dummy to your child's clothing with a ribbon or string presents a strangulation risk if the tie wraps around the child's neck.

Cuts and abrasions: Most injuries related to dummies are cuts and abrasions suffered by infants when they fall over with a dummy in their mouth.



REMEMBER

-  Dummies are particularly susceptible to wear and tear—check your child's dummy before every use and throw it away if it is worn or damaged.
-  Never tie a dummy around a child's neck—this is a strangulation hazard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Publications can be ordered through the ACCC Infocentre or downloaded from the ACCC website.

Safety alert brochures:

Baby bath aids
Baby walkers
Blind and curtain cords
Bunk beds
Cots
Household furniture hazards for kids
Toys

Safety guides:

Keeping baby safe
Safe toys for kids

ACCC contacts

ACCC Infocentre 1300 302 502
ACCC Indigenous Infoline 1300 303 143
For information in languages other than English, call 131 450 and ask for 1300 302 502.

Callers who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact the ACCC through the National Relay Service
www.relayservice.com.au.

TTY or modem users—phone 133 677 and ask for 1300 302 502.

Voice-only (speak and listen) users—phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 1300 302 502.

www.accc.gov.au

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Babies dummies

KEEP BABY SAFE



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SAFETY ALERT

SAFETY HAZARD

Babies dummies

While dummies are designed to help comfort and settle children, they are also a potential hazard to infants and young toddlers.

Poorly designed or manufactured dummies can break apart and the small parts can be a choking hazard. Children under three are vulnerable to choking as they have not yet developed the reflex action to cough up objects that lodge in their throats.

Dummies attached to children's clothes by a ribbon or string can be a strangulation hazard if they wrap around a child's neck.



Never leave a baby with a dummy in their mouth if they cannot remove it on their own



Keep baby safe

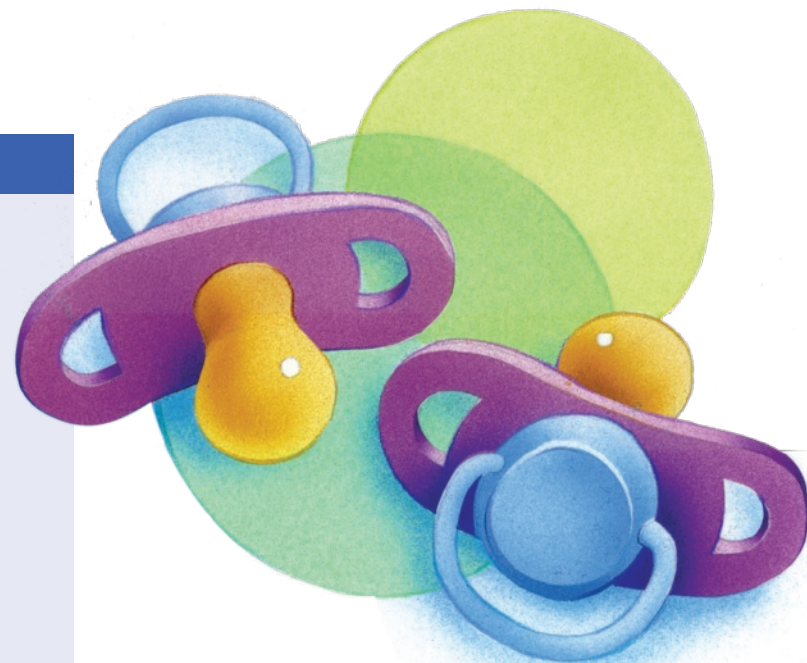
SAFETY CHECKLIST—BABIES DUMMIES

SELECT A SAFE DUMMY

- ✓ Choose a dummy with a shield and ventilation holes to prevent suffocation if a baby manages to place the whole dummy in their mouth.
- ✓ Check the dummy before each use by pulling hard on the teat and tugging on the handle and ring to make sure they will not give way under pressure.
- ✓ Check the teat for wear and tear—if it looks worn or damaged, throw it away.
- ✓ Regularly sterilise or wash the dummy in hot soapy water, rinse and air dry.
- ✓ As far as possible, supervise your baby with their dummy. Never leave a baby with a dummy in their mouth if they cannot remove it on their own.

CAUTION

- ✗ Never tie a dummy on a string or ribbon around the baby's neck or attach it to the side of the cot—both represent strangulation hazards.
- ✗ Never leave a dummy in direct sunlight as this can cause rubber to perish.



Mandatory standard for dummies

The mandatory standard for babies dummies (under the *Trade Practices Act 1974*) prescribes essential safety features for dummies.

This standard prescribes the safe shield size and shape, ventilation holes, secure teat attachment, and structural integrity. It also requires product packaging to feature a label warning parents not to tie the dummy around their baby's neck.