

## Choking Hazards for Children - How to Avoid a Tragedy



### The most common cause of nonfatal choking in young children is food.

At least one child dies from choking on food every five days in the United States.

AND

More than 12,000 children are taken to a hospital emergency room each year for food-choking injuries.

Choking hazards are present throughout all areas of one's home, and your toddler's first reaction to any object they find is to put it in their mouth. Specifically, children under the age of four are at a high risk of choking while eating. Here are some tips to help prevent your child from choking on everyday objects:

- Make sure to look throughout all corners of your home to ensure no small items children can find.
- Keep smaller objects such as buttons, beads, jewelry, pins, nails, marbles, coins, stones, and tacks out of reach and sight from kids.
- Keep cords from window blinds out of your child's reach. Move cribs, beds, and all furniture pieces away from windows and window cords.
- Cut your toddler's food into tiny pieces to prevent choking from occurring.
- Keep small magnets away from children. Seek medical attention immediately if you suspect that your child has ingested magnets or button batteries. Look for abdominal symptoms, such as pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Always pay attention to what a child puts into their mouth. Being aware and attentive can prevent accidental choking from occurring within one's home.

**For more information on choking prevention, please [click here](#).**

## SAFETY DEMONSTRATION HOUSE

*Featuring the Kitchen Area*

The kitchen is a well-utilized area within one's home and often

a gathering place for family and friends for eating and cooking. Some of the critical safety messages we share within the kitchen of Charlie's House - Safety Demonstration House includes:



- Always feed a child in a highchair and never leave the child unattended. The child could fall out of the chair or even choke on any food that they are eating.
- Keep all cabinets and drawers locked throughout the kitchen area, ensuring that children have no way of getting into these areas prevent them from gaining access to cleaning supplies or sharp utensils.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby while in this area. It is safest to keep one close due to the multiple sources of heat coming from this specific area of the home.
- All magnets and batteries should be kept high up and out of any child's reach. Magnets and batteries are choking hazards throughout the entire home. Batteries can lead to showing signs of toxins within two hours of entering the body.
- Make sure that all sharp utensils are kept in far corners, out of reach from any child, or that they are locked up in cabinets within the kitchen area.
- All appliances should be unplugged while not being used in the kitchen area, and they should be stored away correctly in the kitchen area.

### **Featured Safety Devices in our Kitchen Area**

- Dishwasher and Oven Locks. Having locks on the dishwasher and oven can prevent children from accidentally burning themselves and cutting themselves on sharp kitchenware that may be found within the dishwasher in one's kitchen.
- Cabinet Locks. These locks can prevent many in-home accidents from occurring within the home. Cabinet locks can create a safe place for you and your children by keeping certain products out of reach from your child.
- Outlet Plug Protectors. Having these plug protectors can prevent accidental electrocution from occurring within the home.
- Stove-top Knob Covers. Having knob covers can prevent accidental fires and burns from occurring within the home.

**[Visit Charlie's House Resource Center to order home safety devices.](#)**

**[CLICK HERE to schedule a tour of our Safety Demonstration House](#)**

**[CLICK to take a Safety Demonstration House virtual tour](#)**

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**



## I HAD NO IDEA...

Often the words spoken when a parent whose child was involved in an injury or accident. "I had no idea... that a blind cord could strangle my child, a piece of furniture or television falling on a child could take their life, how badly a child could get burned by inserting a metal object in an electrical outlet".

At Charlie's House, we are helping parents understand how to make their home safe for their children through:

- Increasing awareness of the type of hazards that cause injuries in the home
- Educating parents on how to make their home safe
- Providing safety devices to protect a child from being injured

This year, we have distributed over 5,000 safety devices and provided nearly 2,000 tours at our Safety Demonstration Home and through our virtual experience. In 2022, we expect to double these numbers.

**It's all about saving a child from an unintentional injury or accident. At Charlie's House, we are making this happen every day.**

**Your gift to Charlie's House helps us reach more families,** provide more devices to low-income households and develop new education programs to educate parents on making their homes safe.

November 30, is Giving Tuesday. Please consider participating in this event by contributing to Charlie's House. To make your gift, click the link below.

**PLEASE HELP US SAVE MORE CHILDREN BY MAKING A GIFT TODAY**

Safety Corner is a monthly resource published by Charlie's House, to increase awareness of safety issues and ways to prevent accidents and injuries to children in and around their homes.

