



A nonprofit organization
dedicated to protecting children by
improving children's product safety

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Group Issues Travel Advisory for Parents

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(CHICAGO - December 10, 2002) Don't let Grandpa drag that old crib down from the attic during your visit this holiday season, warns Kids In Danger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. "Parents have to be vigilant not only about the safety of the products their child uses at home and in childcare, but while traveling or visiting friends and family as well," stated Nancy Cowles, executive director of KID. "Older model cribs, damaged car seats, or recalled products of any type pose a risk to children on the road as well as at home. Parents and other caregivers should be cautious to avoid injury over the holiday travel season. Contrary to what many parents believe, most children's products are not required to be tested for safety prior to sale, so a brand name product is no guarantee of safety."

KID gives the following tips to parents, grandparents and others for travel and visits:

- Do not use a crib that does not meet current safety standards while visiting. Even newer cribs may be recalled. Check the brand and model number with the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) before allowing your child to sleep in any crib, portable crib or playyard. It is better to rent a crib or bring your own that you have confirmed is not recalled. Many injuries in cribs are caused by missing or loose hardware. Check all hardware each time you set up and use a crib.

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DON'T LEARN ABOUT RECALLS FROM YOUR BABY

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- Use the same caution with high chairs, walkers, strollers or other juvenile products you may be 'borrowing' while traveling. Be especially vigilant to avoid any product with a two-point harness that does not include a crotch restraint. Children can slip down and strangle on the restraint.
- In Illinois and a few other states, laws such as the Children's Product Safety Act prohibit hotels or car rental agencies from loaning old or recalled cribs or car seats, but call the CPSC or National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and check for yourself. Never use adult bedding in cribs and keep all soft bedding out of baby's sleep environment.
- Car seats, like bike helmets, are less effective once they have been involved in a crash. In addition, many older models do not meet current standards. Travel with your own seat and confirm it is not recalled prior to use.
- Because not all hazards can be removed and because the recall status of some products is not readily attainable, parents should maintain close supervision of their children, just as at home.

Families and caregivers can obtain more information at the Kids In Danger web site, www.KidsInDanger.org and check for recalled consumer products at www.cpsc.gov or 1-800-638-CPSC. Car seats are regulated both by CPSC for their use outside of cars and by the NHTSA for auto use. NHTSA's hotline is 1-800-424-9393 or www.nhtsa.gov.

Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. KID's mission is promote the development of safer children's products and eliminate unsafe products from children's environments. Chicagoans

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Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar founded KID in 1998 after their 16-month-old son died in a recalled portable crib. More information about Kids In Danger and dangerous juvenile products is available at 312-595-0649 or www.KidsInDanger.org.

Attached is a representative list of recalled products that parents or grandparents may borrow, buy at a resale shop or pull down from the attic during a visit. In addition, many parents are unaware of recalls on these products they use everyday.

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