What should I do if I think my child has swallowed a button battery?

Act quickly!

• If you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, act quickly.
  - Take them straight to A&E or dial 999 for an ambulance
  - Do not allow your child to eat or drink
  - Do not try and make your child sick

• Button batteries can cause severe internal bleeding and death

If you would like this information in a different language please contact:

Leicester City Council on
0116 454 1000
Leicestershire County Council on
0116 232 3232
Rutland County Council on
01572 722 577

lrsb.org.uk/children
lcitylscb.org

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### What are they?

Button batteries are the very small disc shaped batteries found in many everyday gadgets and toys such as:

- novelty toys
- electronic thermometers
- remote controls
- key fobs
- calculators
- musical cards
- musical books
- flameless candles
- hearing aids
- watches

### Why are they dangerous?

If a button battery is swallowed it could get stuck causing the child to choke and/or cause the battery to produce sodium hydroxide (caustic soda). This is highly dangerous and can cause internal bleeding and/or burn a hole inside the body. They can also cause damage if placed in ears or noses. Serious damage occurs within hours and bleeding can result in death.

### How can I protect my child?

Children under the age of six are most at risk. Always keep batteries safely out of children’s reach and securely fastened into toys/remotes etc. Dispose of used batteries correctly – you can recycle them through kerbside recycling or at certain retailers. Only buy toys from reputable toy shops and make sure they are CE marked.