

Care after your child has swallowed an object

Children's Emergency Department

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Information for Patients

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Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about taking care of your child at home after swallowing an object.

What does swallowing a foreign body mean?

A foreign body is any object other than food that is swallowed and passes through the digestive system. Most foreign bodies pass through the digestive system with out harm or difficulty and will be removed through poo (stools)

Does your child need an x-ray?

Your child does not need an x-ray if

- the item does not show up on x-ray (made from radiolucent material)
- or the checks and results are normal.

Signs to watch out for

At first, swallowing an object can cause coughing or choking . These symptoms should sort themselves out and cause no further pain or breathing problems.

You need to look for any signs of breathing problems such as:

- too much coughing or drooling,
- fast or gasping breathing on your child.

Other signs to be aware of is if your child is having any difficulty eating and drinking, any tummy or chest pain, being sick, any pain or bleeding from their bottom (rectum) - these symptoms are rare but if they happen please get medical assistance.

**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Do I need to look for the object?

You do not need to check in your child's poo (stool) for the item.

Do not give your child laxatives to help your child go toilet, unless prescribed by your doctor.

What can you do to protect your child?

Children enjoy exploring and will often put things in their mouth. Please keep small objects away from them. Make sure they are under close watch. This will help to protect them from swallowing objects they should not .

Button batteries and magnets

Button batteries and magnets if swallowed are very dangerous. They can lead to serious problems. You need to tell your doctor and look for medical care if you believe your child has swallowed one. Check out the following links on swallowing button batteries and magnets;

[Care after a child swallows a magnet](#)

[Care after swallowing a button battery \(adults & children\)](#)

Useful websites

<https://em3.org.uk/batteries-burns-bombs>

<https://dontforgetthebubbles.com/dont-forget-the-lego/>

Contact details

If you have any concerns, please call NHS helpline on 111 for advice.

Book an appointment with your GP

Attend Emergency services

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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