

## Hazard-labeled art materials

Elementary school children should use only non-leaded ceramic glazes and other non-hazardous art materials warn the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Art and Craft Materials Institute.

Art materials labeled "hazard" should not be used in elementary schools because young children, who may not be able to read, might be poisoned if they misuse hazardous art materials. There are substitute art materials that may be used to replace the most hazardous materials, CPSC officials state in a recent written warning.

Under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, hazardous art materials must carry cautionary warnings. This cautionary labeling includes a signal word such as "danger," "warning," or "caution," and directions on how to use and store the product. In addition, the label should contain the statement, "Keep out of the reach of children" or "Use only under adult supervision."

## NHTSA officials: Consumers don't respond to recalls

NHTSA officials say that too few parents take child safety seat recalls seriously.

Officials found that only 11 out of 16 recent safety recalls of child safety seats resulted in fewer than 10 percent of owners having the

necessary repairs made. They are urging parents to take the recalls seriously and have free repairs performed immediately.

NHTSA officials said that many of the recalls are ignored because owners may be unaware of them or do not view the identified problem as serious, even though safety recalls are free of charge.

NHTSA officials urge parents who have questions about any safety recall campaign should call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (800) 424-9393.

## Travel-Lite portable car seats

Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc. is voluntarily withdrawing 11,638 of its Playskool Travel-Lite portable cribs, models 77101 and 77103. The recall is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), after it received three reports of infant deaths due to suffocation with these cribs. In each case an infant allegedly was found entrapped in a folded crib.

The incidents suggest that if the side rails of the crib fold during use, an infant may become entrapped in the "V" where the side rails fold. The Chicago manufacturer made the cribs and sold them nationally from 1990 to 1992.

Consumers who have a Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib should immediately stop using it and call Kolcraft toll-free at (800) 453-7673, from 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m., Eastern time. Kolcraft will arrange to have the crib picked up at the consumer's home at no charge, and a refund will be given.

## Dangers from snagged clothing on school buses

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has warned school bus drivers, parents and children about the dangers of children being dragged by buses because their clothing is snagged on the bus.

Several incidents (two of them fatal) have been reported in which children leaving buses have snagged their clothing or bookbags in the handrail on the right side of the stairway to the bus door. The doors closed before the children could enter the buses to free themselves. The children were dragged as the buses pulled away.

The NHTSA has requested detailed information from major school bus manufacturers to determine how to prevent this problem. The agency opened investigations on two major manufacturers, Blue Bird Company and Thomas Built Buses, to determine if there is a defect.

## Stuffed animals

The Chicago-based North American Bear Company is recalling their "Cats Pajamas" and "Slugger Bear" stuffed animals.

During CPSC tension testing, the cat's pajama buttons and the bear's jacket snaps separated, producing small parts that pose a choking hazard to

young children.

The "Cats Pajamas" is a stuffed cat covered with gray fur, a pink nose and plastic eyes. The cat is dressed in a pink and white striped two-piece pajama set. The cat's pajama top has a small pocket and two round white plastic buttons in the front. A tag is attached on the back of the cat that reads in part "Cat Pajamas #1162, North American Bear Co., Inc."

The "Slugger Bear" comes with a wooden bat attached to the sleeve of a purple jacket with red trim. "F.A.O. Schwarz" is printed in red on the bat and on a tag attached to the bear. The brown furred bear has a red and blue cap attached to his head with a yellow rocking horse printed on the front flap. The bear is wearing a red and yellow striped body suit that cannot be removed.

The cats were sold nationwide at a retail price of approximately \$24 and was last sold by North American Bear in March 1991. The bear was distributed nationwide through November 1991 for about \$40. Consumers who purchased the cats should contact the North American Bear Company at (312) 329-0020 for instructions on returning them. Slugger bears were sold exclusively by F.A.O. Schwarz stores and should be returned to the store where purchased for a refund.

*Editor's note: Health Alert is a collection of health hazard warning information provided by companies and federal agencies. Physicians are urged to cut out and copy or post this information for their patients. If you have a Health Alert item, contact Dave Fremon, news writer, AAP News, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., P.O. Box 927, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927.*

## Fellows in the News

Glenn Wasserman, M.D., FAAP, of El Paso, Texas, was awarded the Wellcome Medal and prize for 1991 by the Wellcome Trust at the annual meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States on November 18 in Nashville, TN. Dr. Wasserman's prize-winning essay is titled "A Novel Approach for Developing Specific T Lymphocyte Lines to Plasmodium Vinckei: Implications for Malaria Vaccine Development." Dr. Wasserman received a Bronze Star Medal for his outstanding service during the Persian Gulf War.

David Watson, M.D., FAAP, of Jackson, Miss., chief of pediatric cardiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, is being honored upon his retirement by the Department of Pediatrics and the AAP Mississippi Chapter of the AAP at its May 14 spring meeting. In honor of Dr. Watson, the chapter is devoting the spring meeting to the topic of pediatric cardiology.

George Buchanan, M.D., FAAP, of Dallas, has been named the first holder of the Children's Cancer Fund Distinguished Chair in Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Buchanan is a professor of pediatrics and director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

Waldo E. Nelson, M.D., FAAP, of Wynnewood Penn., a 1922 graduate of Wittenberg University, was honored April 1 when Wittenberg dedicated a new \$122,000 electron microscope in his name. Dr. Nelson, known as one of the nation's leading pediatricians during his 38-year career, wrote the authoritative "Textbook of Pediatrics," edited the "Journal of Pediatrics" and contributed to more than 40 other publications.

Abraham Rudolph, M.D., FAAP, received the American Board of Pediatrics St. Geme Award for his

contributions to pediatric research and perinatal medicine. Dr. Rudolph is a researcher at the University of California Cardiovascular Research Institute.

## In Memoriam

John Boehm, M.D., FAAP, 63, of Chicago, died April 8. The associate chairman of the pediatrics department at Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Boehm was a leading neonatologist. In 1970, he became chief of the Department of Pediatrics at Wesley Memorial Hospital (now Northwestern Memorial Hospital) and founded the neonatal intensive care unit, which is now the Special Care Nursery at Prentice Women's Hospital of Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was chief of the neonatology division until 1990. In addition to his work at Northwestern, he was a volunteer at Misericordia Heart of Mercy.

*Editor's note: Fellows in the News notes physicians; awards received and other achievements. The column also*

*contains AAP members' obituaries.*

*If you have an item for Fellows in the News, contact Dave Fremon, news writer, AAP News, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., PO Box 927, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927.*

## Books needed

The AAP committees on International Child Health and Infectious Diseases are recommending that physicians send their 1988 editions of the AAP Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases of the AAP to individual physicians in developing countries. For more information, contact: AAP Department of Education, 141 Northwest Point Blvd., PO Box 927, Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927; (708) 228-5005, ext. 7894.