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

FAX

Linda E. Ginzel, Ph.D.
Boaz Keysar, Ph.D.
Co-Founders

Marla Felcher, Ph.D.
Sonny Garg
Howard Haas
Linda Stone
Chris Sweeney
Steven W. Swibel
Robert R. Tanz, MD
Board of Directors

Nancy A. Cowles
Executive Director

Genevieve Kirk
Program Director

To: Rep Koivisto
Fax:
From: Nancy Cowles
Date: 4-9
Pages:
Re:

Here is a fiscal note from Missouri - total annual cost < \$37,000.

116 W. Illinois Street, Suite 5E
Chicago, IL 60610-4532
312-595-0649 Phone
312-595-0939 Fax

www.KidsInDanger.org
email@KidsInDanger.org

DON'T LEARN ABOUT RECALLS FROM YOUR BABY

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 04/09 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT D1-24
SUBMITTED BY: Assemblywoman E. Koivisto

SECTION 210.1007 - List of Unsafe Children's Product

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DOH)** stated the DOH must provide child care providers a comprehensive list of children's products that have been identified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as unsafe by July 1, 2003, and quarterly thereafter. As this information is available on the CPSC website, and existing staff can obtain this information, there will be no additional costs to the DOH for this requirement. The costs for copying and mailing this information to child care providers are as follows:

Copying costs: Based on a review of CPSC recall statements, the average number of recalls affecting children is estimated to be eleven (11) per month. Therefore, it would be necessary to mail an average of 28 pages to each child care provider for each month. The copies can be two-sided. Therefore, there would be an average of 14 pages that must be mailed to each child care provider per month. The cost for two-sided copying is \$.045 per copy for a total of \$0.63 (\$.045 x 14) monthly copying costs for each child care provider. As the information must be provided quarterly, the copying costs for each child care provider quarterly would be \$1.89.

There are 3,777 child care providers. Therefore, the total quarterly copying costs would be \$7,139 ($\$1.89 \times 3,777$). The annual copying costs would be \$28,556 ($4 \times \$7,139$).

Costs for Stuffing Envelopes: It would be necessary to contract with another agency to stuff the envelopes. The rate for stuffing envelopes is \$.05 per envelope. There are 3,777 child care facilities. Therefore, the costs for stuffing the envelopes would be \$189 quarterly ($\$.05 \times 3,777$) and \$756 annually ($4 \times \189).

Mailing Costs: It would be necessary to mail 3,777 envelopes containing the CPSC recall statements to child care providers quarterly. The cost for mailing each envelope (bulk rate) is \$0.4560 per envelope or \$1,722 for each quarterly mailing ($\$0.4560 \times 3,777$). The annual mailing cost would be \$6,889 ($4 \times \$1,722$).

Total costs: The total annual costs to copy the materials, stuff the envelopes, and mail the materials to child care providers would be \$36,201 ($\$28,556 + \$756 + \$6,889 = \$36,201$).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Child care staff must document each facility's compliance with past signed and dated notification forms during regular inspections, and instruct child care providers to dispose of all unsafe children's products. As this can be accomplished during regular inspections, there are no additional costs to the DOH for this purpose.

Finally, DOH officials would request one (1.00) clerk typist II to obtain information from the CPSC website; determine which recall statements pose a threat to children and eliminate those that don't; prepare copies and submit to child care staff and supervisors who will monitor them for compliance; manage the contract for stuffing the envelopes; assemble the materials for submission to the contractor who will stuff the envelopes; obtain the packet from the contractor and prepare for mailing; handle complaints and problems that arise from providing and mailing

the information to child care providers; track the recall statements that have been submitted to child care providers in order to monitor them appropriately; and work closely with supervisors and staff to ensure efficient monitoring of the recall statements.

Oversight assumes the DOH could absorb the additional work with existing staff resources. However, if the number of quarterly mailings were to increase significantly, the DOH may need to request additional staff through the appropriations process.

-----Original Message-----

From: Nancy A. Cowles [mailto:nancy@kidsindanger.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2003 11:41 AM
To: Shackley, Jasmine
Subject: Re: AB386

I cannot find a fiscal note -- there wasn't one requested. The Department of Health states there is no cost associated with their implementation of the Act. DCFS has incorporated the enforcement into their other enforcement activities. It should also be noted that there have been no cases brought under this Act -- it has served to educate second hand dealers and child care providers. Darrell Patterson is available today until 3:00 Central Time. I am working on getting someone from DCFS to send a letter.

Nancy

--

Nancy A. Cowles
Executive Director
Kids In Danger
312/595-0649
312/595-0939 (fax)
nancy@KidsInDanger.org
www.KidsInDanger.org

>
> E
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Shackley, Jasmine
> Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2003 10:35 AM
> To: Koivisto, Ellen Assemblywoman
> Subject: FW: AB386

>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Nancy A. Cowles [mailto:nancy@kidsindanger.org]
> Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2003 10:27 AM
> To: Shackley, Jasmine
> Subject: Re: AB386

>
>
> Jasmine,

>
> I wish the Assemblywoman good luck with the bill today in the Health and
> Human Services Committee.

>
> I noticed at the website that the fiscal note estimated upwards of \$200,000
> per year. I'm not sure what the cost was in Illinois, but I think most of
> it was absorbed by current workers and mailings. Our fiscal note at the time
> of the bill indicated no fiscal impact. If you would like to get a more
> exact estimate, you might want to call Darrell Patterson at our State Depart
> of Public Health (217/785-4093).

> Nancy

D4-24

FACTS

An average of 87 children under age 5 die annually in incidents associated with nursery products.

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children. For every fatality, approximately 18 more children are hospitalized and 233 are treated by emergency departments for nonfatal injuries.

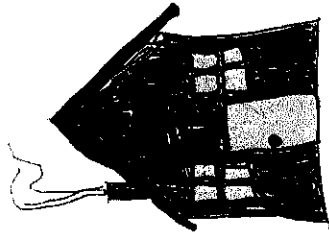
In the calendar year 2000, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled children's products, including nursery items, toys, and clothing, at a rate of almost 2 per week. This accounts for nearly 37 million recalled units.

An estimated 67,100 children under age 5 were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2000 for injuries associated with nursery products.

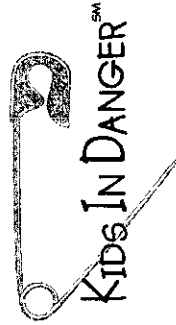
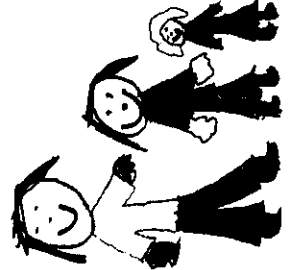
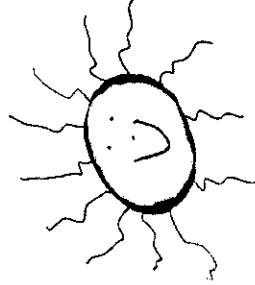
Kids In Danger (KID) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. It was founded by Linda Ginzler and Boaz Keysar in 1998 following the death of their son in a recalled portable crib. KID is dedicated in loving memory to Danny Keysar and all victims of juvenile products.

Contact KID to obtain information about workshops on children's product safety in childcare settings.

Are the
children
in my
care



SAFE?



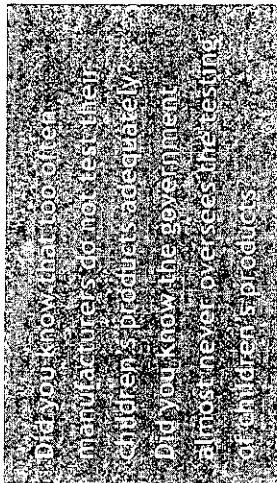
116 W. Illinois Street, Suite 5E
Chicago, IL 60610-4532

Telephone: 312 595 0649
Fax: 312 595 0939
email@KidsInDanger.org
www.KidsInDanger.org

Protect
Children
From
Dangerous
Products

1. LEARN

About the

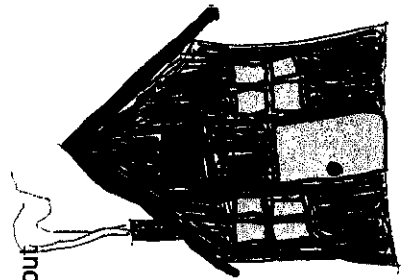


Problem

Visit www.KidsInDanger.org and come back often for updated information or call our office at 312-595-0649 to request an informational packet.

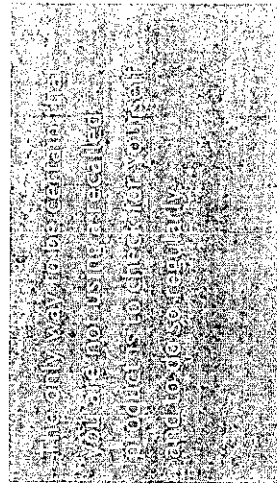
Read *It's No Accident: How Corporations Sell Dangerous Baby Products* by E. Marla Felcher (Common Courage Press, 2001).

Share this lifesaving information with other parents or childcare providers: help them learn about the problem with children's product safety.



2. DO

A Product



Inventory

Do an inventory of the items used by children in your childcare facility. Don't forget to tell other providers and parents to do the same.

Contact the following government agencies to check on consumer goods.

For most children's products:

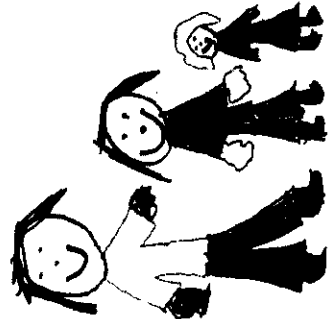
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
1-800-638-2772
www.cpsc.gov

For car seats:

U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1-800-424-9393
www.nhtsa.gov

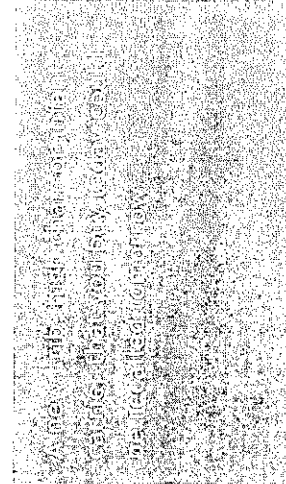
For foods and medicines:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
1-800-332-4010
www.fda.gov



3. KEEP UP

With Future



Receive future recall news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

To receive information by email:

Visit the CPSC's web site and join the email subscription list at www.cpsc.gov/about/subscribe.html.

To receive information by fax:

Send a fax to the CPSC at 301-504-0399. Include your name and fax number.

When available, fill out your name and address on registration cards that accompany new products so that the manufacturer can contact you directly should the product be recalled.

Check any donated, resale, or new item before you use it in your childcare setting.



The Children's Product Safety Act AB 386

Kids In Danger (KID) was founded in 1998 by the parents of 16-month-old Danny Keysar, who died in his childcare home when a poorly designed, inadequately tested portable crib collapsed, strangling him in the folded top rails. Danny was the fifth child to die in a Playskool Travel-Lite crib, in all 15 children have died in similar portable cribs. The crib had been recalled five years earlier, yet neither Danny's parents, his caregiver, nor the state inspector who visited the site eight days earlier had any idea of the danger lurking.

The Problem:

Manufacturers are not required to test most children's products before putting them on the market. Children's products constitute more than half of all products recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The CPSC alerts the media of the recall, yet no further action may be taken to ensure the discontinued use of the product. This means that dangerous children's products can unknowingly be in homes, childcare facilities, or anywhere else children's products are used.

Fact: Unintentional injuries are the **leading cause of death** among children. For every fatal injury, approximately 18 children are hospitalized and 233 are treated by emergency departments for non-fatal injuries.

Fact: An estimated **67,100 children under age 5** were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2000 for **injuries associated with nursery products**.

Fact: On average **87 children die annually** in incidents associated with nursery products.

Fact: Children's products are recalled on average **twice a week** by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The Solution: *The Children's Product Safety Act*

The **Children's Product Safety Act** prohibits the resale or lease of unsafe children's products or their use in licensed childcare facilities. First passed in Illinois in 1999, the Children's Product Safety Act has also been enacted in Michigan, Vermont, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Rhode Island. Other states will be considering this Act in upcoming sessions.

Help Kids In Danger save lives: support AB 386, the **Children's Product Safety Act**. For further information, please contact our Executive Director, Nancy Cowles.

www.KidsInDanger.org

email@KidsInDanger.org

312 595 0649 Phone

312 595 0939 Fax

116 West Illinois Street Suite 5E Chicago, IL 60610

D7-24



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

**Written Testimony submitted to the Nevada Assembly Health and
Human Services Committee.
Assembly Bill 386
April 9, 2003**

Linda E. Ginzel, Ph.D.
Boaz Keysar, Ph.D.
Co-Founders

My name is Linda Ginzel. I am a mother. I am also a professor at the University of Chicago. My husband is also a professor. This means that like many parents we rely on childcare.

Marla Felcher, Ph.D.
Sonny Garg
Howard Haas
Linda Stone
Chris Sweeney
Steven W. Swibel
Robert R. Tanz, MD
Board of Directors

Almost five years ago, on May 12, 1998, my 16 month-old son Danny was strangled at his licensed childcare facility in our Chicago neighborhood. There is absolutely no reason for this to ever happen again. Danny's death was completely preventable.

Nancy A. Cowles
Executive Director

You see, my little boy was killed by a defective children's product -- a crib -- the Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib -- where he napped in the afternoons at his childcare home.

Genevieve Kirk
Program Director

This crib has rotating hinges in the top rails that allow it to collapse and fold flat for storage. This type of crib is defective because it can collapse unexpectedly while the product is in use.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Danny was not the first baby to die in the Playskool Travel-Lite, he was not the second, he was not the third, and he was not even the fourth child to die. My son, Daniel, was the fifth baby whose neck was caught between the top rails of this crib when it collapsed and strangled him to death. On August 19, 1998 --three months after Danny died- 10-month old William Curran of Fair Haven, New Jersey became this crib's sixth victim.

After we buried our son, my husband and I learned that 1.5 million portable cribs of similar collapsing, top-rail design by five manufacturers have been recalled, but according to the Chicago Tribune (June 15, 1998) over one million may still be in use. As of today, the official death count from these portable cribs stands at 15 children. The most recent victim was killed in June 2001, in Seattle, Washington.

How is it possible that my son died in this way? How can such a deadly crib be found in a licensed childcare facility? You should know that just eight days before this crib collapsed and killed my son, his childcare home passed a routine inspection conducted by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

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312-595-0649 Phone
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DON'T LEARN ABOUT RECALLS FROM YOUR BABY

DB-24

There is absolutely no reason for another child to die due to the lack of information about unsafe, recalled products. Assembly Bill 386 would protect children from such products, which might otherwise be in routine use in homes and childcare settings. This legislation prohibits a childcare facility from using any unsafe children's product, while providing information to the providers about recalls. It also prohibits the sale or lease of any dangerous or recalled children's item. The first to pass the law, Illinois has been administering it for almost three years. Six other states also have the law: Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Vermont, Rhode Island and Missouri.

Since Danny died, my husband and I have learned a lot about the lack of information that contributed to our son's death. Moreover, the problem goes far beyond collapsing portable cribs. The CPSC recalls children's products at a rate of two per week. In 2002 alone, this amounted to over 16 million individual units, not including car seats. Because the CPSC relies largely on asking the media to inform the public, many people remain unaware of the dangers.

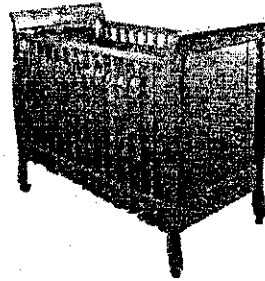
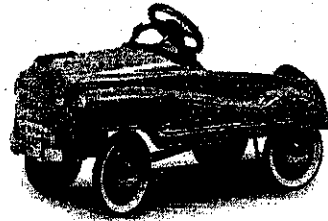
As a result, we founded a nonprofit organization called Kids In Danger (www.KidsInDanger.org). KID's mission is to promote the development of safer products, educate the public, especially parents and caregivers and advocate for children. Children's product safety is an area where there is so much to be done that even a small effort can make a big difference in getting the word out and saving lives.

Consider one product category: child car seats. Manufacturers have to recall their products when they or the government safety regulators at the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration (NHTSA) discover a defect or other problems. A 1998 Detroit News special report found 90 different recalls of child car seats manufactured since 1990, with millions of defective seats still in use today. The number has now risen to over 100.

As another example, consider cribs. According to the CPSC, nearly 30 infants die and 9,000 more are injured in unsafe baby cribs every year. These cribs are often purchased used, handed down to other children or passed on to friends. Many are used in childcare facilities. However, parents should be aware that even new products could be defective.

With AB 386 in place, my husband and I have the hope that other families here in Nevada will not suffer a tragedy as senseless as the one we have had to endure since the death of our beloved son. We hope that the work we do in Danny's loving memory will protect your children. Thank you.

90 children's products were recalled in 2002.



How many did you hear about?

Children's products were recalled in 2002 at a rate of almost **two per week**. Unless you actively seek out recall information, you probably missed hearing about most of these recalls. A study of children's products recalled in 2002 shows that over **11 million units** had to be recalled because of failure incidents, injuries, and violation of mandatory safety standards. An average recall retrieves less than 30% of the items — check your home for these dangerous products.

Facts:

- Over half of all children's product recalls in 2002 were toys. Sporting products, nursery products, and clothing items were also recalled.
- The largest recall was issued for 4 million plush Snuggle bears that pose a choking hazard.
- 207 children were injured as a result of these defective products.
- Choking, falls and bodily injury are the top three hazards of children's product recalls in 2002.
- Several recalls were issued because the products violated mandatory safety standards.

Protect your children from the risk of injury from products:

- Do an inventory of the children's products used in your home and childcare facility. Consult the list of children's products recalled in 2002 on the reverse side of this sheet. Contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772 or www.cpsc.gov, for a comprehensive listing of all recalled products. To keep up to date on product recalls, sign up to receive recall alerts by fax or email.
- Spread the word. Distribute this flyer to parents, caregivers, grandparents, and pediatricians. Call Kids In Danger for more copies or to request additional literature.
- Learn more about the problem. For more information about children's product safety, visit Kids In Danger's web site at www.KidsInDanger.org. Sign up for our email and mailing lists to receive our publications and email alerts.
- Become a children's product safety advocate. Write to your elected officials to voice your concern about the safety of juvenile products. Ask them to support the *Children's Product Safety Act*, model state legislation that makes it illegal to sell or lease unsafe children's products and prohibits their use in licensed childcare facilities. Encourage Congress to push for pre-market independent testing of children's products by supporting the federal *Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act* (Schakowsky D-IL).



More information about recalled children's products can be found in *A Minefield of Danger: Children's Product Recalls in 2002*. Contact Kids In Danger at 312-595-0649 or visit www.KidsInDanger.org for a copy of the report.

Children's product recalls in 2002

Alpha International Inc. pedal cars
 Answer Products Inc. mountain bicycles
 Baby Trend Inc. infant swings
 Baseline Design bean bag chairs
 Bath & Body Works Inc. ice shavers
 BCI Burke Company bridges for modular playgrounds
 Bear Archery LLC junior-sized compound archery bows
 BikeE Corp. recumbent bicycles
 Bikepro Inc. baby walkers
 Briggs & Stratton Corp. fun-karts
 BRIO Corp. plan toys pull-along snails
 BRIO Corp. pull-along caterpillars
 Brunswick Corp. mountain bicycles
 BY US International Co. Ltd. NEXT Ultra Shock mountain bicycles
 Cane Creek Cycling Components bicycle suspension seat posts
 Cannondale Corp. bicycles
 Cannondale Corp. Gemini bicycles
 Childcraft Education Corp. wooden changing tables with steps
 D.A.M. Clothing Inc. girls short sets
 Damo Plus Corp. school supply sets
 Discovery Toys maze toys
 Disney Children's Book Group, LLC Zowie's 123 children's books
 Dollar Tree Stores Inc. stuffed polyester pool animals
 Dollar Tree Stores Inc. animal toy sponges
 Dorel Juvenile Group Inc. infant car seats/carriers
 Dynacraft Industries Inc. mountain bicycles
 Elkton Sparklers Company Inc. bamboo stick sparklers
 Escalade Sports portable basketball hoops
 Estes Industries air powered rockets
 Estyle, Inc. ultimate snuggle jackets
 EV Global Motors Co. mini E-Bike electric bicycles
 Eveready Battery Co. Inc. Kidz Club flashlights
 Federated Merchandising Group girl's capri pant and shirt sets
 Fisher-Price infant swings
 Gen-X Sports Inc. skateboard ramps
 Good Lad Apparel infant girls' garments and sandals
 Graco Children's Products Inc. children's activity center toy tracks
 Graco Children's Products Inc. snack and activity trays
 Hallmark Cards Inc. Harry Potter key chains
 Halo Burger flashlights and batteries
 Haro Bicycle Corp. BMX freestyle bicycles
 Hilton Hotels Corporation children's Vacation Station cooler/chairs
 Huffy Sports Company portable basketball hoops
 IKEA teddy bears
 InSTEP LLC trailer bikes

Intercon Merchandising Source Inc. Time Out beach chairs
 Jakks Pacific Inc. spray foam
 Kent International Inc. "Midget Racer" mini-bicycles
 Kmart Corp. candy-filled wooden vehicles
 Kohl's Department Stores Inc. children's fleece, two-piece pant sets
 Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc. toy attachments on baby walkers
 Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc. toy steering wheel on strollers
 Lands' End, Inc. soft farm sets
 Lauri Inc. toddler tote toddler activity sets
 Lida Bicycle Co. bicycles
 Lifetime Products Inc. portable basketball hoops
 Lovee Doll & Toy Co., Inc. talking electronic dolls
 Marin Mountain Bikes mountain bikes
 McDonald's Corp. and Bobble Dreams USA bobble head figurines
 Megatech radio-controlled airplanes
 Miracle Recreation Equipment Company swing sets
 National Sporting Goods Corporation skates
 Oriental International Trading Company baby walkers
 OshKosh B'Gosh newborn girls' garments
 Pottery Barn Kids ride-on duck
 Pottery Barn Kids star clacker wooden toy
 Prestige Toy Corp. duckie ring rattle/teethers
 Radio Flyer Inc. little wooden push cars
 Radio Flyer Inc. Model 8 Roadsters
 Random House Inc. Monsters in the Closet children's board books
 Reed & Barton Corp. teething rings
 Rocky Mountain Bicycles mountain bicycles
 Rose Art Industries soap making kits
 Rose Art Industries cotton candy machines
 Small World Toys "Sort & See" sorting box toy
 Southern Wood Products toy boxes
 Specialized Bicycle Components Inc. bicycles
 Spin Master Toys toy planes
 Sportsman's Guide Big Red Wagons
 Sunrise Medical hand cycles
 Team Beans LLC "Bottle cap bear" key chains
 The Disney Store, Inc. plush dolls
 The Little Tikes Company Pop 'n Scoot ride-on toys
 Tough Traveler Ltd. child backpack carriers
 Unilever Home and Personal Care USA plush Snuggle bears
 Value City and Schottenstein stores children's gel candle kits
 Vermont Precision Woodworks cribs
 Wear Me Apparel Corp. infant girls' garments
 XL Machine Ltd. toy chests
 Zutano Inc. stuffed bunny toys



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Total Recall

A child's death spurs his parents' fight to see unsafe products taken off the market



"We're dealing with our grief by working for this cause," says Linda Ginzel (at home with her husband, Boaz Keysar, and son Ely).

On the afternoon of May 12, 1998, Linda Ginzel, a business school professor at the University of Chicago, picked up her 4-year-old son, Ely, at his Hyde Park preschool and continued on to Sweet Tots daycare to retrieve her 16-month-old, Danny. But as Ginzel rounded the corner, she saw a swarm of police cars. Thinking there had been a robbery, she made her way to the door, only to be told by a policewoman that she needed to go to nearby Children's Memorial Hospital. "I have to go to the hospital?" she asked in disbelief. "It's *my* child?"

At the emergency room, Ginzel



"He had a way of engaging people," Keysar says of Danny (two days before his death).

was met by a doctor who spoke the simple words, "We tried everything we could." Ginzel fell into the arms of her husband of nine years, Boaz Keysar, an associate professor of psychology, who had already been told by doctors how a portable crib at Sweet Tots had collapsed inward, strangling Danny in the vise formed by the crib's folding top rails. "I was numb, but I also had this amazing calm," recalls Ginzel, 40, who took locks of Danny's soft brown hair as a keepsake. "I thought this was some tragic, freak occurrence that couldn't have been helped."

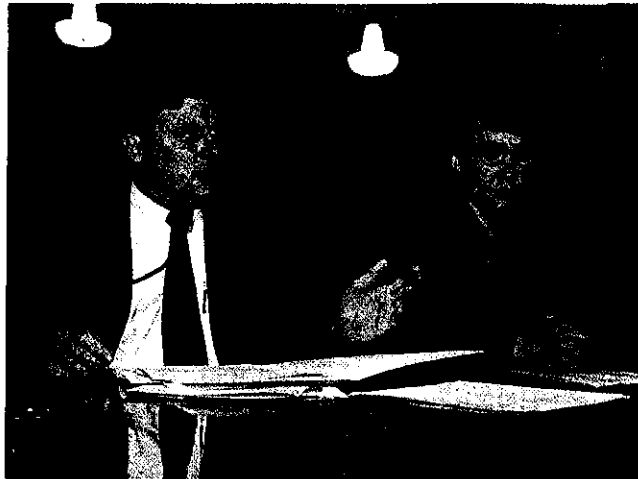
In fact, nothing could have been

● local heroes

further from the truth. And the realization that Danny's death could have been prevented was enough to turn his grieving parents into dedicated activists who have vowed to do everything possible to prevent any recalled toy, crib or stroller from ever killing another toddler.

"We're talking about children's lives," says Keysar, 41, whose efforts have led to passage of a law to that effect in their home state of Illinois. "We knew we had to do something."

Ginzel and Keysar's unwelcome education began the day after Danny's funeral, when an article in the *Chicago Tribune* revealed that Danny had been the fifth victim to strangle in a Playskool Travel-Lite Portable Crib manufactured by Kolcraft Enterprises of Chicago—a model that had been officially recalled five years earlier after causing the deaths of three children. At least 11 other children had been killed by similar products from various manufacturers, and there were as many as 1.2 million such cribs still in circulation. "We couldn't *not* react," says



"The system is ready to be changed," says Ginzel (with State Sen. Tom Walsh, appearing before the Illinois Senate last month).

Ginzel. "My sense of calm turned to a focused goal."

Within days of Danny's death, Ginzel and Keysar, with the help of friends, sent out more than 5,000 e-mails warning parents about the crib's dangers. That was only the beginning. The couple also learned that days before Danny's death, state daycare inspectors had visited Sweet Tots but had not checked for dangerous products because they weren't required to. "We were shocked to learn that even state inspectors didn't have information about recalled

products," says Ginzel. "If they *had* known, Danny would be alive."

That June, using \$20,000 in personal savings, Danny's parents established the nonprofit Kids In Danger (Web site KidsInDanger.org), dedicated to protecting young children from unsafe products. To that end, the couple testified last September before the Illinois House Children and Youth Committee, proposing a plan to eliminate deadly recalled products from licensed daycare facilities—recom-

mendations that the state's Department of Children and Family Services adopted on the spot.

Today, with a corps of some 30 regular volunteers, Ginzel, daughter of a U.S. Army master sergeant and his Korean wife, a factory worker, and Keysar, the Israeli-born son of an electronics technician and a kindergarten teacher, spend evenings and weekends handling fund-raising and publicity campaigns out of their Lincoln Park row house. On May 13, exactly a year and a day after Danny's death, Ginzel received a phone call from Illinois State Rep. Carol Ronen telling her that the bill Ginzel and her husband had championed—the Children's Product Safety Act, which requires that licensed child-care facilities be inspected for unsafe products and prohibits any unsafe products from selling or leasing them—had passed unanimously in the state senate. "With this legislation in place," says Ginzel, "no other family in Illinois will have to suffer this needless tragedy."

Ginzel and Keysar have earned praise from the likes of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission chairwoman, Ann Brown, who calls them "amazingly courageous. They've done an incredible job in raising the consciousness of the public." But the couple, who intend to expand their crusade, see their work as far from finished. "We do this in Danny's honor," says Ginzel. "He's still with us every day."

- Susan Schindehette
- Barbara Sandler in Chicago



"Persevering, you accomplish things," says Keysar (with his family at a local playground).

**Linda Ginzel &
Boaz Keysar**

Safety First

Who they are:

The cofounders of Kids in Danger (KID) and professors at the University of Chicago

The call: On May 12, 1998, Ginzel and Keysar got news that's every parent's worst nightmare. Their 16-month-old son, Danny, was dead—strangled when the portable crib he was sleeping in at daycare collapsed, trapping his neck. The grief-stricken parents buried their second child, believing his death was a terrible, rare accident. The day after his funeral, they learned the truth: That crib model had been recalled five years earlier, and Danny was the fifth child to die in one. Stunned, the couple did some research.

Their shocking discovery: Although hundreds of children's products were recalled each year for safety reasons, there was no system in place to contact the childcare centers and consumers who'd already bought them. Even worse, they found that safety testing wasn't a universal requirement.

Taking action: Within weeks, the two sent out a mass e-mail, warning friends and colleagues about the crib and asking them to forward the message to others. They also founded KID, which is dedicated to protecting children by improving product safety.

"Can you believe that at the time Danny died, there wasn't a law requiring all retailers to stop selling recalled items?" asks Ginzel. Thanks to the couple's efforts—they lobbied state representatives, testified before the legislature, and negotiated with retail associations—it's now illegal to sell or lease such products in Illinois. They then helped to pass



TO LEARN MORE

about children's
product safety or to
make a contribution,
visit [www.kidsin-
danger.org](http://www.kidsin-
danger.org) or call
312-595-0649.

similar legislation in six more states. Eight others are considering their own versions this year.

Ginzel and Keysar are also advocating required safety testing, and Congress is considering a KID-backed federal act to implement it. Meanwhile, KID tries to educate as many people as possible through workshops, information kits, direct mailings, and a website. "Parents must be informed—we're the force that can make children's product safety the next big consumer movement," says Ginzel.

"We do this work in Danny's memory," says Keysar. "The hours we spend on it are those we would've spent with him."

D 14-24

safety warning

what every parent and caregiver must know about recalls to keep children safe.

BY ELLEN LIBERMAN AND MARLA FELCHER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTINE ALICINO

There was nothing in the bright day in May 1998 to foretell the tragedy that would define the lives of Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar of Lincoln Park, Illinois. As he did every morning, Boaz got out of bed at 5 a.m. to kick-start the day's routine for his family of four. He prepared breakfast and read

5-year-old Ely and 17-month-old Danny a story,

stealing a moment to tickle his younger son. When Linda left Danny at Sweet Tots daycare a little later that morning, his babysitter was tickling him in his favorite spot, right under his ear. Danny's infectious laugh was ringing in his mother's ears all the way to work.

When Linda next saw her son, that afternoon, he was silent and still, bundled in a receiving blanket by the emergency room nurses at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He was dead—asphyxiated by a portable crib that appeared to have collapsed when Danny grabbed the top rails as he tried to stand. His neck was trapped in the V-shaped wedge of the folded rails.

Their grief seemed bottomless, but Linda and Boaz could find no villains in the events that led to Danny's death. His babysitter had been caring for him in her home daycare setting since he was 7 months old. His death had devastated her, too. State child-welfare workers had inspected Sweet Tots just eight days before the tragedy.

But Linda and Boaz's sorrow turned to horror when, the day before they buried Danny, they discovered from a newspaper article that their son's death was not an isolated incident. The portable crib in which Danny died had been implicated in four other fatal accidents since 1990, when the manufacturer, Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc., of Chicago, began selling the Travel-Lite crib under the Playskool brand name. And portable cribs with similar designs had been associated with the deaths of seven other children.

The dangers of these portable cribs had been so well documented that since 1993, federal regulators from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) had recalled 10 models of portable play yards and cribs manufactured by five different companies, including the Travel-Lite, which was recalled in March 1993. In the past eight years, Evenflo, Century, Draco, Baby Trend, and Kolcraft sold more than 1.5 million of these portable play yards and cribs. (This is in addition to last November's recall of almost 10 million playpens. See "Recall Alert" booklet, *opposite page 33*, for specifics.)

In response to the recalls, some companies (Evenflo, Century, and Baby Trend) offered free repair kits to prevent the cribs from collapsing; another (Kolcraft) offered a \$60 refund (the crib's original price was \$89), which in November 1998 was increased to \$120; and one company (Draco) went out of business, leaving its customers no recourse.

THE PROBLEM WITH RECALLS

Yet, the very people who should have been informed about those recalls—the daycare center staff, child-welfare workers, Danny's parents—were clueless. The cribs were still out there, despite two recall announcements by the CPSC.

Kolcraft officials emphasize that "the company is committed and dedicated to the safety of children. We are doing all we can to get the word out about the risks associated with the Playskool Travel-Lite."

Given their experience, Linda and Boaz aren't convinced that Kolcraft has done enough. The recall was ineffective, they contend. "We knew we had to do something,"

Danny Keysar (top left) died in a portable crib that had been recalled five years earlier. Any product you buy today can be recalled tomorrow, so be aware.

In one year, more than 137,000 infants and children were rushed to hospital emergency



Top left: courtesy Keyzar family

rooms due to injuries received from faulty nursery equipment, supplies, and toys.

child

D16-24

10 commandments to ensure your child's safety

REVIEW PRODUCTS IN YOUR HOME and at your child-care provider's to make sure no toys, products, or equipment being used have been recalled. Use our "Recall Alert" booklet (opposite page 33), and check the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Web site (www.cpsc.gov) for the most up-to-date recall information.

IF YOUR CHILD IS INJURED while using a product, immediately call the CPSC hot line (800-638-CPSC) and the manufacturer.

CALL THE CPSC (at the 800 number listed above) and ask to be put on its automatic mailing list (the CPSC does not sell this list to any third parties). Each week the agency will mail you free updates on recalls. Ask whoever cares for your child (daycare center director or childcare provider) if she is on the CPSC mailing list, too. If not, add her name to the list, and make sure she reads a copy of this story.

IF YOU HEAR OF A RECALL, spread the word (try e-mail) and ask those you tell to do the same.

IF YOU RECEIVE A HAND-ME-DOWN PRODUCT from a relative or friend, do not use it before finding out if it has been recalled (check our "Recall Alert" booklet and

the CPSC Web site or hot line). Do the same before you pass along a used baby product to another family.

IF YOU SHOP at garage sales, yard sales, or flea markets, be sure that any item you're considering hasn't been recalled (check the CPSC Web site before leaving home for the latest recalled products, and when browsing refer to our "Recall Alert" booklet).

DO NOT ASSUME that a product that failed to harm your first child will be safe for subsequent children. Before you reuse any item, be sure that it has not been recalled.

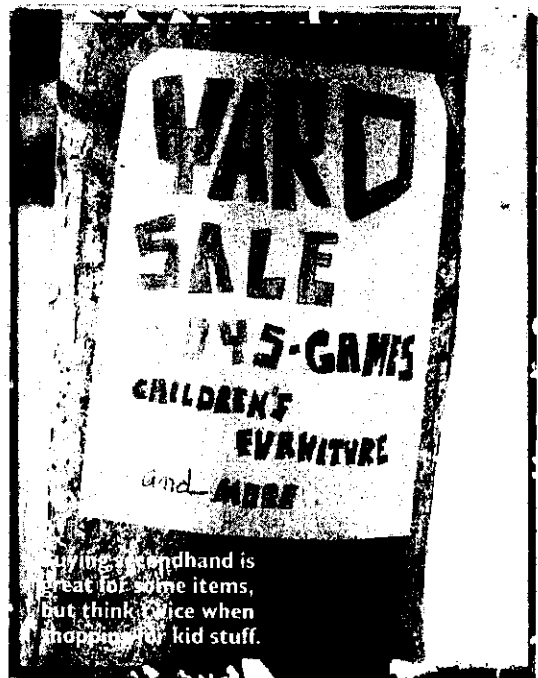
IF A PRODUCT COMES WITH A WARRANTY CARD (including one is now voluntary except in the case of car seats), fill it out and return it. That way, the manufacturer will be able to get in touch with you if necessary.

PUT A FRIEND OR A RELATIVE on the CPSC's automatic mailing list as a baby or shower gift.

PAY ATTENTION to whether or not your local newspapers and radio and TV stations report recall news. If you don't think they are as vigilant as they could be, call and tell them so.

consumers, and oversees recalls when product defects are discovered.

Ideally, the CPSC's work on safety standards should prevent a dangerous product from reaching the marketplace. But unfortunately, design flaws are often discovered only after consumers have bought and used a product, even though most manufacturers carry out extensive safety testing before bringing a product to market. "Having a product recalled can destroy a company overnight," claims Peter Reynolds, president of Brio, a manufacturer of juvenile products in Germantown, Wisconsin. "You certainly don't want to be associated with an unsafe product."



Boaz says. "We realized that [the crib] was a time bomb that would kill again—and it did." In August, two months after the CPSC issued a third recall notice on this same portable crib, 10-month-old William Curran of Fair Haven, New Jersey, became the sixth child to die in a Playskool Travel-Lite crib.

Linda and Boaz are now on a mission to prevent any other child from dying because of an unsafe product. Within days of their son's death, they sent an urgent e-mail to everyone they knew, plus friends of friends, warning them about the danger of the Travel-Lite crib. Hundreds of people wrote back to thank them, some saying that they literally pulled their babies from the recalled crib as soon as they got the message.

But Linda and Boaz, both professors

at the University of Chicago, needed to do something more. Within just three weeks of Danny's death, they founded a nonprofit organization, called Kids in Danger, to spread the word about product recalls more effectively.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PRODUCT IS RECALLED

Congress established the CPSC in 1972 to protect the public from potentially hazardous consumer products. Today, the agency monitors more than 15,000 types of products, from highchairs to gas grills. The CPSC works with manufacturers to develop product safety standards, enforces regulations on products over which it has legal jurisdiction (fireworks, clackers, lawn darts), educates

Yet, in fact, from October 1996 to September 1997, more than 70,000 children under 5 visited emergency rooms nationwide due to injuries from faulty nursery equipment and supplies. In that same period, another 65,000 children under 5 were injured by toys.

Who initiates a recall? By law, U.S. manufacturers are required to report hazards to the CPSC as soon as they become aware of them, but sometimes they don't. (In 1997, the CPSC received 250 such reports.) When a manufacturer contacts the CPSC with a plan to recall a product, this initiates what is called a Fast Track recall, and the

Car seats are the only juvenile product required to have a warranty card.

message can usually get to the public within 20 business days. "Shock waves go through a company when a product gets recalled," says Brio's Reynolds, whose company tests its products in its own laboratory during the prototype phase and, once they're in production, with an independent lab.

But there are other ways products get recalled. Emergency room visits trigger recalls. Police and medical examiners file reports with the CPSC. The agency searches out news stories that implicate products in injuries or deaths. Sometimes, consumers help the CPSC identify hazardous products by phoning in complaints to the CPSC's toll-free hot line (see "10 Commandments to Ensure Your Child's Safety," page 30).

If the CPSC establishes that a product is dangerous, its representatives meet with the manufacturer to decide



Portable cribs with designs like this one have been implicated in 13 deaths.

and sent it to 700 TV stations nationwide. But only 140 stations aired the tape. And not one station where Danny or William lived—in Chicago or New Jersey—showed it.

"We can't go into every home and pass out recall notices," says CPSC spokesperson Russ Rader. "But the media has access to homes daily." Yet even if every media outlet played or printed every recall notice, it would be hard to inform every consumer.

SECONDHAND: HOW SAFE?

Many parents rely on hand-me-downs from friends and family or purchase used products because of the high costs associated with having a baby.

But that may not be the safest route to take. Bridget Reuter, a spokesperson for the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, warns parents especially against the dangers of buying secondhand car seats. "Safety standards change frequently," she says, "and it's often impossible to tell by looking at a car seat if it has been in a crash. Imperceptible cracks can be lethal. I'd caution parents to never use or buy a car seat that is more than six years old."

The older the product, the greater the chance that it is no longer in the original owner's hands. The Danny Foundation (no connection to Danny Keysar), a California-based organization dedicated to crib safety, estimates that 3 out of every 4 newborns sleep in used cribs. A study comparing registered births with new crib sales suggests that as many as 30 million secondhand cribs are in use or in storage.

So what's the message for parents? Be vigilant about the products with which your child comes in contact. "We didn't know the extent of the danger kids are put into every day by unsafe products," Boaz Keysar says. "We were living our lives in ignorance." When it comes to recalls of children's products, many parents are. ■

Ellen Liberman is a reporter at the Providence Journal in Rhode Island. Maria Felcher is a freelance journalist.

If in doubt, buy new, but still keep informed about recalls and check the items in your home.

how to solve the problem. With few exceptions, manufacturers agree to some sort of voluntary action (the CPSC can require a manufacturer to offer a free repair kit, a product replacement, or a refund), and a press release is sent out to the media to warn consumers.

INFORMING PARENTS

Rounding up recalled products is not as simple as it might seem. The CPSC is good at getting a dangerous item—say, a stroller—off store shelves, since the manufacturers know which stores are carrying them. But once a parent has bought a stroller and is pushing a 2-year-old through the park in it, recalling that stroller becomes tricky.

Dangerous children's products stubbornly resist recalls for two reasons: parents' tendency to pass along baby equipment to family and friends, and manufacturers' and the CPSC's dependence on the media to inform the public about hazardous items.

A media announcement, typically prepared and issued jointly by the manufacturer and the CPSC, explains the nature of the hazard, the injuries and deaths (if any) the product is suspected of having caused, and the consumer's best course of action. The notice is sent to newspapers and radio and television stations in the hope it will become part of the day's news. Press releases are also sent to magazines such as this one.

But there are no guarantees that the information will reach parents. These are often one-time messages that a parent can easily miss. Or the recall can fail to get any media play. That's what happened in Danny's and William's cases.

Last April, a month before Danny died, the CPSC included the Travel-Lite in its annual roundup of major children's product recalls. The CPSC produced a video news release of the recall roundup

Resources

- To become further educated on children's product safety issues, contact:
- **Kids in Danger** (www.kidsindanger.org), the Chicago organization that was started by Danny Keysar's parents, for information on the recall process.
 - **The Danny Foundation** (www.dannyfoundation.org) for crib safety news.
 - **The CPSC Web site** (www.cpsc.gov) or hot line (800-638-CPSC) for the most up-to-date recall information.

Last November, 9.6 million playpens were recalled due to a strangulation risk.



ACTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003

Kids In Danger (KID)

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck.



KID's Mission

is to **promote** the development of safer children's products, **advocate** for children, and **educate** the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products.

Look inside this newsletter to add your voice for safer products and return the form to KID. →

Targeting the Root Cause of Dangerous Children's Products

Since its founding, Kids In Danger (KID) has focused on the urgent task of protecting children from injury and death by eliminating dangerous products from children's environments. But that effort begins to feel more and more like holding a finger in the dike - the recalled products keep coming and children continue to be injured and killed by defects in products. This year marks a shift in KID's focus to address the root cause of the problem with children's product safety: inadequately tested, poorly designed children's products. By ensuring that products are designed with safety in mind and adequately tested, KID hopes to stem the flow of faulty products and keep children safe.

KID is pleased to announce three programs that will allow KID to work towards this objective this year. **Teach Early Safety Testing (TEST)** is a new program to reach tomorrow's designers and product engineers with vital information about product safety, standards and testing. Funded by a generous grant from **Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.**, KID's TEST will provide important background materials and educational opportunities to engineering students to incorporate safety into design work from the start. The goal of KID's TEST is to encourage the development of safer children's products.

KID's **Health Care Providers Outreach Program** is a new initiative to reach parents and caregivers with the critical message of children's product safety through their health care providers. The program's objectives are:

- To inform health care providers about the dangers of recalled and unsafe children's products and give them tools to educate their patients about the issue;
- To provide parents and caregivers in Chicago communities specific information about the risks of children's products and how to identify and remove these products from use;
- To provide a model that can be replicated in other communities for health care providers to serve as conduits of the important safety message.

KID would like to thank the **Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation**, **Lands' End**, and the **Park West Community Association** for their support of this program.

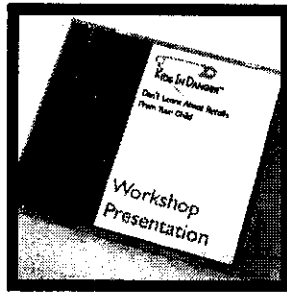
Launched last fall, **Test It Now! A Grassroots Awareness Campaign for Children's Product Safety**, is an ambitious project to raise the visibility of dangerous children's products and the shortfalls of the current system of children's product safety. Funded by **Ben & Jerry's Foundation** and KID's founders, **Linda Ginzel** and **Boaz Keysar**, the campaign is working to create a groundswell of consumer support for safer children's products leading to needed changes. KID executive director, Nancy Cowles, kicked off the program by meeting with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman, Hal Stratton, in October. Outreach in Seattle began in December through a meeting of the Washington State SAFEKIDS Coalition and other groups concerned about children's product safety. KID will continue to develop the program through outreach campaigns in Boston and Washington D.C.

We encourage all parents, caregivers, health care professionals, policymakers and others to help KID protect our children from injury and death by working with us as we develop these vital programs in 2003/2004. Visit our web site for more information about children's product safety and program updates at www.KidsInDanger.org.



Workshop Package Now Available

Last year, KID educated over 200 parents, caregivers and service providers about dangerous children's products through our **Education and Outreach** campaign. Through workshops in English and Spanish, KID presented the issue of children's product safety to diverse groups throughout metropolitan Chicago.



KID is pleased to announce that we have developed our workshop presentation into a useful package format for trainers. We can now offer the **Don't Learn About Recalls From Your Child** workshop package to groups nationwide to increase the reach of this vital safety information.

Don't Learn About Recalls From Your Child is an engaging one to two hour workshop presentation that:

- Educates participants about dangerous children's products;
- Informs participants about actions they can take to protect the children in their care from injury and death in juvenile products; and
- Provides participants with tools and support to create a secure environment for children.

Evaluation of the pilot program indicates that *Don't Learn About Recalls From Your Child* is highly effective. Most parents and caregivers take direct action to create a safer environment for children after hearing KID's safety message.

Available in English and Spanish, *Don't Learn About Recalls From Your Child* is an excellent educational presentation that helps to protect our most vulnerable population: children. To learn more about the workshop package, or to order *Don't Learn About Recalls From Your Child*, please call KID or visit our web site to download an order form.

Advocacy Update

The Children's Product Safety Act has been introduced in three more states for 2003. A 3109 (Weinberg-Johnson) in New Jersey has been approved by an Assembly committee and will now be heard by the full Assembly. HF 69 has been introduced by Representative Ro Foege in Iowa and HB 1244 by Representative Carol Chumney; and SB 1066 by Senator Herron in Tennessee. Call KID or visit our web site for more information.

Spotlight

Eight-month-old **Ethan Hauser's** parents, Laura and Todd Hauser, used a Baby Trend Home & Roam portable crib in part to keep him out of the reach of his rambunctious older sister. Had they been made aware of the greater danger the crib presented, they would have never taken the risk. His father put Ethan to bed in the crib in their Seattle home on June 26, 2001. Laura arrived home a short while later, said hello to her husband and guests, and went to check on Ethan. The horrific sight of her beloved son, strangled on the collapsed side rail of the crib, can never be erased from her memory. Ethan, a happy, amazing baby, died in the same manner as little Riley Grassetth had just months before in another part of Washington State and as 13 other children had since the Playskool Travel-Lite and other portable cribs with rotating top rails were introduced to the market in the early 1990's.

Ethan's parents had received the crib from other parents - assuming that it was 'kid tested' and probably safer than a new product. However, new or used, the Baby Trend Home & Roam shared a defective side-rail system with four other brands of portable cribs. Five babies, including the two in Washington in 2001, had died in Baby Trend brand cribs, six in Playskool Travel-Lite cribs, three in Evenflo's Happy Camper and Happy Cabana models and one in Century's Fold-N-Go. The Draco "All My Kids" portable crib was also recalled for the same defect.



Ethan Hauser

"I was stunned to find out afterwards that no independent testing is required for children's products," stated Laura Hauser. "The constant reminder to check our products for recalls, while important, will not stop this crisis. Products must be tested for safety before they are sold. We cannot tell parents that in addition to everything else, they must ensure the safety of products - we are not engineers."

Laura and Todd have joined KID's Test It Now! campaign to call on manufacturers and the government to require pre-market testing of durable children's products. KID executive director, Nancy Cowles, spoke to Laura and other Seattle area children's advocates in December to encourage support of the outreach effort. Laura and Todd's congressman Jim McDermott was one of 39 co-sponsors of the Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act introduced in the last Congress by U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky. The bill will be reintroduced this session.



D20-24

A Minefield of Danger



KID released its first research report of the year in February. **A Minefield of Danger: Children's Product Recalls in 2002** is a comprehensive study of all children's products recalled last year. Of 210 products recalled by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in 2002, 90 were items intended for use by, or care of children (43%). This accounts for over 11 million individual recalled units. Other findings of the report include:

- ⚠ Fifty-six percent of all children's product recalls in 2002 were toys. Sporting products followed at 23%, nursery products at 13% and clothing at 8%.
- ⚠ The recall of 4 million plush Snuggle bears was the largest children's product recall by unit in 2002. The eyes and noses of the bears can come off, posing a choking hazard to children.
- ⚠ The highest number of injuries reported was for mountain bicycles recalled by Brunswick Corp. Prior to the recall, the company received 31 reports of injuries to children and teenagers including serious head injuries, bodily abrasions, bruises and chipped teeth when the bike suspension forks broke apart, causing the rider to lose control of the bike.
- ⚠ With 29 recalls (32%), choking was the top hazard of children's product recalls in 2002. Falls followed at 23% and bodily injury at 14%.
- ⚠ Several products were recalled in 2002 for failure to meet existing federal safety regulations. Five products violated the Federal Hazardous Substance Act and one product violated the Federal Flammable Fabrics Act.
- ⚠ Many nursery products with a track record of product failure and injury continue to be recalled for the same product faults that were identified in earlier recalls.

KID recommends that juvenile product manufacturers proactively alert consumers of children's product recalls and eliminate dangerous products from children's environments. In addition, we urge the CPSC to work with the industry to develop strict, mandatory standards for durable children's products and enforce compliance. To ensure the safety of our children, KID suggests that policymakers and product manufacturers work together to develop a strategy for pre-market testing of durable children's products. Finally, KID recommends that the public learn more about the inadequate children's product safety system in the United States.

To obtain a copy of *A Minefield of Danger*, please call KID or visit our web site to download a copy of the report and related fact sheet.



Add Your Voice for Safer Products

As part of the **Test It Now!** campaign, KID is gathering individual and organizational support for the principle that durable children's products should be tested prior to sale. If you support this tenet of Test It Now, please fill out this form and fax or mail it to us at KID. Or, send an email to nancy@kidsindanger.org with the information. All supporters of safer children's products must join together to give this issue the weight it needs to become reality!

Yes, list me (my organization) as a supporter of Test It Now!

I/We believe that children's products should be tested to strong standards before they are sold.

Name: _____

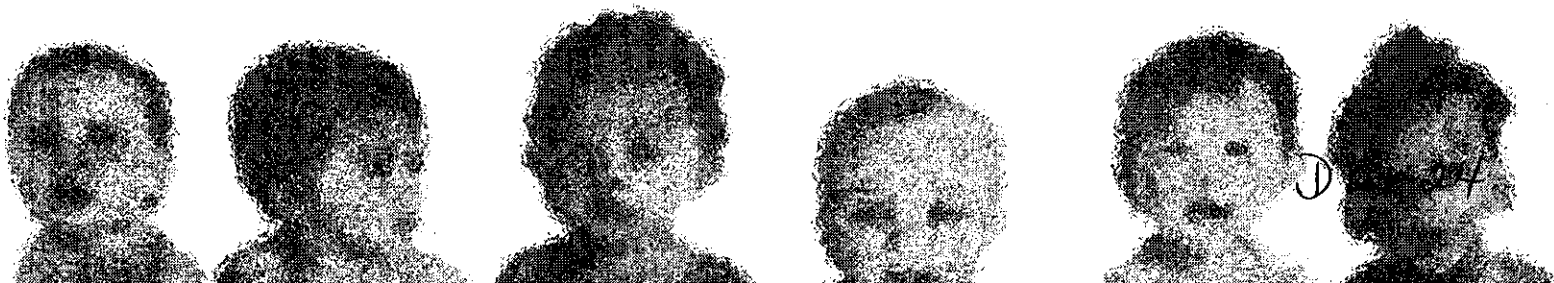
Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

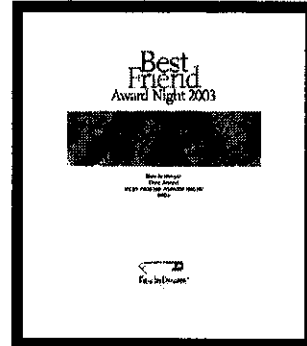


Program Book Advertisement Form

Thank you for your support of KID's Third Annual Best Friend Award Night! To include your message of congratulations to this year's Best Friend Award recipients or to place an advertisement in our fundraiser program book, please do the following:

1. Select your desired ad size:

<u>Select Ad Size</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Artwork Enclosed?</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card	\$75	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 page (5.5" x 4.25")	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Full page (5.5" x 8.5")	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/>



2. Attach a camera-ready copy of your text or business card or write your message below. Electronic files may be sent to genny@kidsindanger.org. If you need more space, please continue on an additional sheet of paper.

3. Return this form, your artwork (if necessary) and your payment to Kids In Danger, 116 W. Illinois Street, Suite 5E, Chicago, IL 60610 by **April 15, 2003**.

4. Fill in your contact information:

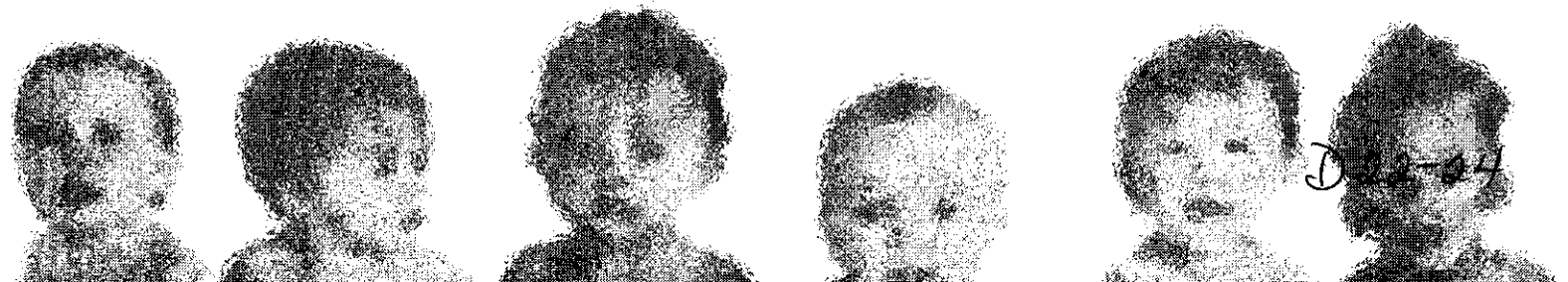
Name: _____ Group Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Contact KID at 312-595-0649 if you have questions.



Honoring KID's 2003 Best Friends

KID's **Third Annual Best Friend Award Night** fundraiser will take place on Monday, May 5, 2003 at the distinctive Indian-Asian restaurant, Monsoon, in Chicago. Watch your mail for an invitation to this exciting event! The reception will include a silent auction and the presentation of the 2003 Best Friend Awards.

This year, KID is delighted to honor government officials on the local, state and national levels as our Best Friends. Awards will be presented to **Caroline O. Shoenberger**, Chicago Commissioner of Consumer Services, **Carol Ronen**, Illinois State Senator, and **Jan Schakowsky**, U.S. Representative. Together, these public officials demonstrate a resolute commitment to children through their work as advocates for children's product safety.

The Annual Best Friend Award Night is KID's primary fundraising event. We depend on the generous contributions of individuals, organizations and businesses raised through this fundraiser to support our programs. Please join KID in honoring the accomplishments of our 2003 Best Friends by supporting this exciting event.

KID is pleased to announce that we are printing a **program book** for the fundraiser. We need your help to make this publication a tremendous success! Please consider purchasing an advertisement in the program book. This is a great way to express your appreciation of our honorees and KID's work. Businesses may also use the program book to advertise goods or services to KID's diverse audience.

Kelly Pernell of **pbj creative studios** has generously agreed to donate her graphic design and printing services for the program book. Thanks to this kind donation, the full value of each ad placed will directly support KID's lifesaving work.

To place an ad, please complete the attached form and return it to us with your camera-ready artwork, logo, or business card. The deadline for ads is April 15, 2003.



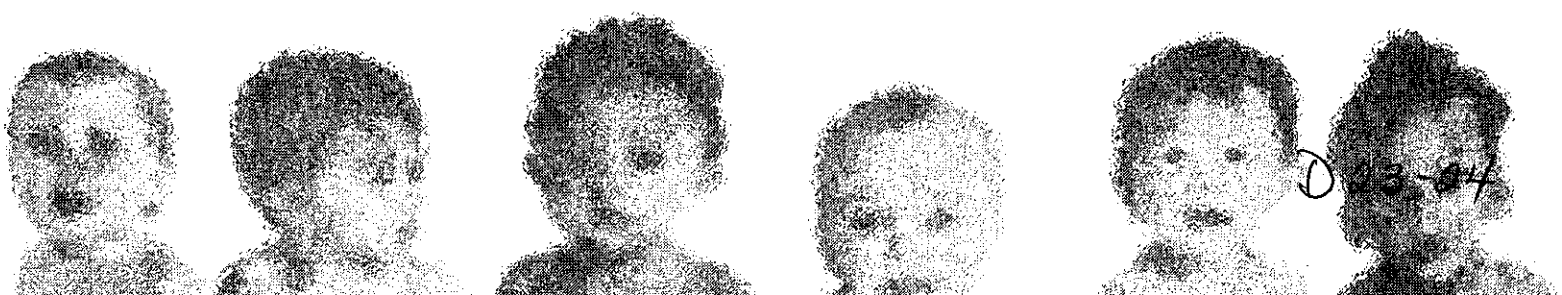
Caroline O. Shoenberger



Carol Ronen



Jan Schakowsky





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116 West Illinois Street, Suite 5E
Chicago, IL 60610
Telephone 312-595-0649
Fax 312-595-0939
www.KidsInDanger.org
email@KidsInDanger.org

Save the Date

Watch your mail for an invitation to the **Third Annual Best Friend Award Night!** KID will honor our 2003 Best Friends at this exciting fundraiser that will take place on Monday, May 5, 2003 at Monsoon in Chicago. See inside for more information.

Donor Notes

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

- KID extends a heartfelt thank you to all who responded to our appeal for fundraising support in 2002. Our **year-end giving program** raised over \$17,800 to implement the programs outlined within this newsletter.
- Our thanks to all who purchased event packets for the **Carson's Community Day Event** in November. The event raised \$750 for KID.
- KID invites our supporters to **Shop for Charity** while supporting our cause. Shop online from over 350 stores like Barnes & Noble, Gap, Office Max, 1-800-Flowers, Dell, J.Crew, and more at BuyforCharity.com. A percentage of each purchase will benefit Kids In Danger if you select KID as your cause of choice.
- There are many ways to support KID's work through in-kind donations of time, goods or services. Log onto our web site to view our **Wish List** of office supplies and other items needed for our program support. Fill out our **Volunteer Form** to join our energetic volunteer corps. For more information on how you can make a difference, give us a call.

This newsletter was made possible by the generous contributions of Peggy Groves Design, 312-341-0735 & printing by JB Graphics, Inc. 847-956-6001.

