

# Product

## Safety Alert

[www.consumer.tas.gov.au](http://www.consumer.tas.gov.au)

Hotline : 1300 65 44 99



### Children's Furniture

Nursery furniture is responsible for almost 20% of injuries to children in the first year of life. The majority of these injuries are preventable through a combination of common sense, supervision, and better use of safety features provided by the manufacturer. This information is to help you recognise potential hazards so children are not placed in a situation, which could result in serious injury.

#### Babywalkers

Since 1 November 2002, a range of safety requirements based on a US standard ASTM F977-00 have been implemented to minimise the injury risk to children in baby walkers with falling downstairs or tipping over, as well as specific marking requirements. These provisions are mandatory. All baby walkers sold after 1 November 2002 must comply with the standard.

While the standard may reduce the risk of injury to babies, parents and carers will find the following helpful hints useful.

##### Helpful Hints

- maintain supervision at all time
- use barriers at the top of stairways and around heaters and fires
- remove any objects which may cause the walker to tip over
- keep items such as irons and hot drinks out of the way
- only use walkers on very flat surfaces. Backyards can be particularly dangerous

#### Bath aids

Bath aids are designed to relieve parents from some of the backache associated with bathing children. They are fine while the parent is close at hand, but they could prove to be fatal if a child is left, even for just a moment, to answer the door or the phone.

##### Helpful Hints

- check that the suction pads are clean and work well
- never leave a child unattended in the bath

#### Highchairs

##### Helpful hints

- always supervise the child
- fasten the waist and crotch straps
- use a shoulder harness when the child becomes more active
- make sure that hands etc are free from moving parts when the tray is raised & lowered
- do not allow a child to climb in or out of a chair unassisted, as it may become unstable
- make sure a child cannot push against a fixed vertical surface and push the chair over
- place the highchair so that it is clear of electrical cords, hot drinks etc.



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## **Prams and strollers**

### *Helpful hints*

- do not overload or hang shopping bags from handles
- make sure the child is strapped in and the strap fits securely
- when adjusting the stroller/pram, check that the child is clear of any moving parts
- avoid stairs and escalators where possible
- a child's head and arms should be inside the stroller/pram when it is moving
- do not leave a child unattended in a stroller or pram.

## **Change tables**

### *Helpful hints*

- do not leave a child unattended on a change table
- make sure everything you need is in easy reach
- use the restraining strap
- do not hang items from the table, as it can make it unstable.

## **Bouncinettes**

### *Helpful hints*

- do not leave a child unattended in a bouncinette
- do not put a bouncinette on a table - always use it at floor level
- do not carry a bouncinette with a child in it
- always place the child under the restraining strap with the appropriate section between the legs.