There’s a little-known risk to small children.

Inside small electronic devices may be very powerful coin-sized button batteries. When swallowed, these batteries can get stuck in the throat and cause severe burns or death.

Coin lithium button batteries can cause severe injuries when swallowed.

Each year, there are about 3,200 calls to U.S. Poison Control Centers about a button battery being swallowed. Nearly 6 out of 10 of these cases are for children under the age of 6.

Many slim, sleek electronic devices have button battery compartments that are easy to open and most parents do not know there is a risk.

If a child swallows a button battery, symptoms may be similar to other illnesses, such as coughing, drooling, and discomfort. Kids can usually breathe with the battery in their throat, making the problem hard to spot.

To prevent swallowing button batteries:

1. Keep devices with button batteries out of reach if the battery compartments aren’t secure, and lock away loose batteries.
2. If a child swallows a button battery, go to the emergency room right away. Do not let the child eat or drink and do not induce vomiting.
3. Share this information with other parents and caregivers.

National Battery Ingestion Hotline: 1-800-498-8666