

## **Supervision of the Little Ones – When children explore the world**

### Supervision and the role of parents

Even though toys are tested to ensure they are safe (see our test reports under "Product Safety & Responsibility" on our website), it is important for adults to keep an eye on young children while they play. Children under the age of three naturally tend to put things in their mouths as part of their way of exploring the world. This behaviour is normal but can lead to unpleasant or frightening situations.

### The importance of supervision

Even though a toy or parts of a toy have been tested for safety and meet the safety requirements of standard EN 71-1 (physical properties of toys), it is not a substitute for normal parental supervision. It is important to emphasize that toys meeting safety standards are designed to minimise risks as much as possible, but this should never imply that parents or caregivers should neglect to monitor and watch the child during play.

### Safe toys and standards

Toys that meet the requirements of EN 71-1 are highly unlikely to pose a significant risk to the child. This is the purpose of the safety standard. However, it cannot be ruled out that unpleasant situations may occur, for example, if a child puts fabric, yarn pieces, or a medium-sized wooden block in their mouth and has difficulty removing it. As a parent, you can certainly be startled by this, but it rarely poses a danger, and you should simply calmly help the child remove the items again.

Most people are familiar with the classic warning found on all pacifier packaging, advising not to panic if the child puts the entire pacifier in their mouth and it gets stuck. When the pacifier is made according to the safety standard (EN 1400), this has been considered, and you should simply remove it calmly. However, this does not change the fact that the child will become upset, and that the situation can be experienced as very frightening.

### Safe toys for the appropriate age

It is equally important not to give toys to children who are younger than the intended age group for which the toy was originally designed. Toys for children over three years old, for example, may contain or release small parts that can pose a significant choking hazard for children under three.