

CHILDREN'S ISSUES

Laser Toys: Not Always Child's Play

Many a kid (and parent) who has seen Luke Skywalker battle Darth Vader with a lightsaber thinks lasers are cool. What they may not know is this: When operated unsafely, or without certain controls, the highly-concentrated light from lasers—even those in toys—can be dangerous, causing serious eye injuries and even blindness. And not just to the person using a laser, but to anyone within range of the laser beam.

[More information](#)

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm363908.htm?source=govdelivery>

Anesthesia: Is it Safe for Young Brains?

When infants or young children need surgery, does anesthesia affect their developing brains? With more than 1 million children under age 4 requiring anesthesia for surgery in the United States each year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other health organizations are working together to answer this question. Previous scientific studies in young animals have shown that commonly used anesthetics can be harmful to the developing brain. However, results have been mixed in children. Some studies of infants and young children undergoing anesthesia have reported long-term deficits in learning and behavior; other studies have not. These conflicting results show that more research is needed to fully understand the risks anesthesia may pose to very young patients. [More information](#)

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm364078.htm?source=govdelivery>

Babies and Reflux: When Spitting Up is Normal

Anyone who's ever taken care of an infant knows that babies spit up. And spit up. And then spit up again. It's easy to understand why some parents and other caretakers are concerned. Is the infant getting enough nourishment? Is frequent spitting up a sign of a more serious illness? Does the baby need medicine to treat the problem? According to Andrew E. Mulberg, M.D, a pediatrician and pediatric gastroenterologist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), frequent spitting up is absolutely normal in most cases and not a symptom of poor health. As long as the child is alert, reasonably content, gaining weight, and not showing other signs of illness, this is not usually a cause for concern, he says. [More information](#)

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm363693.htm?source=govdelivery>