

## **Pacifier Safety**

In 1977, the Commission issued a regulation for the safety of pacifiers. Among other requirements, the regulation says that:

- 1) Pacifiers must be strong enough to not separate into small pieces on which a baby could choke or suffocate.
- 2) Pacifier guards or shields must be large enough and firm enough to prevent the pacifier from being drawn entirely into a baby's mouth.
- 3) Pacifier guards or shields must have ventilation holes.
- 4) Pacifiers cannot be sold with a ribbon, string, cord, or yarn attached, and must be labeled with the statement: "Warning - Do Not Tie Pacifier Around Child's Neck as it Presents a Strangulation Danger."

Although the regulation has helped to reduce the number of accidents involving pacifiers, the Commission still receives reports of infants strangling on pacifier cords or ribbons tied around their necks. Children have caught pacifier cords on crib corner posts, crib toys and gyms, pieces of furniture, and even doorknobs.

### **Safety Tips**

- Remember, never hang anything around your baby's neck
- Pacifiers may deteriorate with age, exposure to food, sunlight, etc. Inspect them frequently and discard immediately if you notice a change in texture, tears, holes, or weakening.