

# Safety Fact Sheet

## Bouncers and Rockers



### What are bouncers and rockers?

Bouncers and rockers allow young babies to either bounce or rock in a reclined position. They are constructed of a metal frame and are covered by fabric. The frame is angled allowing baby to lie in a sloping or semi-upright position. The bouncing or rocking action is intended to comfort or soothe babies.

Many parents believe that bouncers and rockers are safe child minding products. However, they have the potential to cause injury to babies, if babies are left unattended in the rocker or bouncer.

### How may children be injured when in bouncers and rockers?

#### Falls

- Babies who are not restrained may fall over the edge of the bouncer or rocker as they attempt to roll over or lean forward.
- If left unsupervised in a bouncer or rocker on a raised surface, babies may rock themselves off the edge of the surface, falling to the ground along with the bouncer or rocker.
- If carried in a bouncer or rocker, babies may sustain a fall if the person carrying them trips.

#### Strangulation

- If a crotch strap is not present, babies may slide down and be strangled by the waist strap.

### How common are these injuries?

Bouncers and rockers have been associated with falls injuries in babies, usually due to children falling out of the device.

### Is there a Law or an Australian Standard for bouncers and rockers?

There are no laws or Australian Standards relating to bouncers or rockers. Please keep in mind the safety reminders below when choosing a bouncer or rocker.

#### Remember:

- When purchasing this item, ensure that it is stable and that its base is wider than the seat. The base should have rubber tips or another non-skid surface. Choose a bouncer or rocker that is of solid construction and one that has a safety harness. Make sure that there are no gaps that could trap small fingers or toes and that the product has safety locks for any adjustable tilting feature.
- Only allow your baby to be in a bouncer or rocker for short periods of time.
- Always place the bouncer or rocker on the floor or flat surface that is not raised. Never place it on a table, counter or any other raised surface.

# Fact Sheet

## Bouncers and Rockers



- Always use the waist and crotch straps when placing your baby in a bouncer or rocker.
- Place the bouncer or rocker away from windows that have cord or blind strings close by. These strings may pose a strangulation hazard if your baby can access them.
- Place the bouncer or rocker away from heaters, power points, fireplaces and stairs.
- Never use a bouncer or rocker to carry or transport a baby.
- Stop using bouncers and rockers when your baby begins to roll over.
- Never leave your baby unsupervised in a bouncer or rocker.
- The Children's Hospital at Westmead recommends that you check for products that have been recalled ([www.recalls.gov.au](http://www.recalls.gov.au)) prior to buying or borrowing an item for use with your child.