

What Juliette's parents learned about the Nap Nanny

After Juliette died, her parents began to learn more about this seemingly innocent product.

The first incidences of children twisting over the sides of the Nap Nanny were reported as early as May 2009 -- over a year before Juliette died. We had never heard a single report, warning, or bulletin regarding this issue until July 26, 2010. New product warnings were issued immediately upon the recall; warnings which we NEVER received. The package insert prior to the recall did not include the warnings "NEVER use in a crib" or "Floor product only."

We purchased the Nap Nanny to improve our daughter's sleep safety. The Nap Nanny was designed in 2008 as a "safe and stable crib device" for a child while both parents slept. Hence the infamous taglines *Everybody Sleeps* and *Helping babies sleep...so parents can too*. Devices intended for infant sleep in a crib should be tested to a greater degree in terms of infant safety and injury prevention: testing that goes beyond flammability and toxicity. The intent of the Nap Nanny was changed, thus placing the product in a much less regulated area of consumer products. Yet it was still sold in the same section in stores, next to crib wedges.¹ When the FDA and CPSC issued a warning about the use of sleep positioners² in 2010, the product was no longer sold as a sleep positioner.

The Nap Nanny went to market without proper design analysis, without proper testing, and the warnings did not comport with well-established product label standard guidelines. ***As a parent I believed that there were regulations and standards that would prevent unsafe products from being sold.***³

In December of 2012, the CPSC filed an Administrative complaint after receiving over 92 incident reports, including five infant deaths. All models of the Nap Nanny including the Chill pose a substantial hazard even when used "properly", on the floor, as stated in the new product warnings. In 2013, all models of the Nap Nanny including the Chill were recalled as part of a settlement between CPSC and the manufacturer. The Nap Nanny is no longer sold in stores and it is illegal to sell in the US. However, these hazardous sleep positioners can still be found through secondary sales vehicles, including Craigslist. Caregivers must be aware of the risk of harness escape and partial harness escape. In addition to the risk of harness failure, the permeable cloth covers and internal foam present a suffocation risk. On May 27, 2014, almost four years after Juliette's death, the CPSC announced the death of a sixth infant.

¹ This information is available in CPSC's online documents from their case against Baby Matters, Complaint - <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/134675/babymatters1a.pdf> (paragraphs 59-100), Answer - <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/138121/babymatters2.pdf> (paragraphs 59-100)

² <http://www.fda.gov/forconsumers/consumerupdates/ucm227575.htm>

³ KID hears this often -- no one can believe that children's products can be sold without safety testing. With the passage of the CPSIA in 2008, there is now mandatory testing, along with a process to implement mandatory standards for infant and toddler durable products. But similarly to the PlaySkool Travel Lite Crib that killed Danny Keysar in 1998, the Nap Nanny did not fit into a product category so fell outside of testing requirements.