

Jessica Redden, RN  
Child Care Nurse Consultant  
Scott County Health Department  
600 W. 4th Street  
Davenport, IA 52801  
563-326-8618 Ext. 8821  
Jessica.redden@scottcountyia.com



Call your Child  
Care Nurse  
Consultant (CCNC)  
if you have any  
questions about  
child health and  
safety, or any  
special training  
needs.



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The Child Care  
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# Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for **Scott County Child Care Providers**

Written by Stacy Kraft, RN BSN

APRIL 2019

## Teething Necklaces

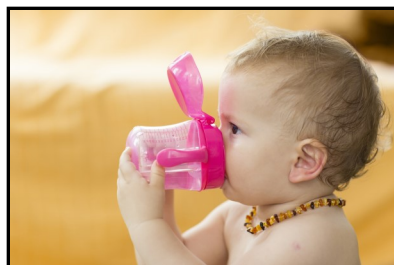


Photo: IStock

In December 2018, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a warning regarding the dangers of teething necklaces due to reports of children choking on beads, as well as the death of an 18 month old from strangulation.

Necklaces and beads have become popular for teething. They are made of amber, wood, marble or silicone and are marketed to relieve teething pain naturally. Some claim that the child's body temperature warms the amber beads and the beads release a pain-relieving substance that is absorbed through the skin and then into the bloodstream. They also claim to stimulate the thyroid gland to control drooling and reduce inflammation. It is important to know that according to the American Academy of Pediatrics "there is currently no scientific research or evidence to back up these claims".

The biggest risks with these bracelets and necklaces are choking and strangulation. They can be broken easily and the beads may become a choking hazard.

Children in care should not wear teething necklaces or bracelets. If a parent requests that their child wear one, a physician order is needed. Instead have a discussion with parents about alternative means of relieving teething pain, including: rubber or plastic chewing teething toys (large enough to not choke on), light massage of the gums with a gloved finger and/or damp wash cloth. If necessary medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen may be recommended by the child's physician. **Warning:** Numbing gels or creams that contain benzocaine are not recommended for infants and children.

For more information contact your local CCNC or go to <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/teething-tooth-care/Pages/Amber-Teething-Necklaces.aspx>

***The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) does not recommend that infants wear any jewelry due to the risk of strangulation!***

## Hatching Eggs

Spring is a popular time to incorporate science projects into children's daily learning. One popular project is the hatching of duck and chick eggs. Chickens and ducks excrete several communicable diarrhea illnesses including E.coli, salmonella, campylobacter, and S. paratyphoid. Because of these disease risks, it is recommended to find alternative ways of including this science project into the children's daily learning. If these animals are handled by children and adults, hand hygiene practices must be followed diligently. Ducks and chickens are on the prohibited list for Caring for Our Children Standard 3.4.2.2. For more information go to <http://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.4.2.2>