

Dear parents and carers,

You may well be aware, the government Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has issued a safety alert for a product commonly known as 'water beads':

[Product Safety Alert: Water Beads \(PSA7\)](#)

And a news article:

[OPSS issues Safety Alert to warn of the risks of water beads](#)

We have been asked to also share the following information with you:

Water beads are marketed to fulfil a variety of different purposes, which can include being used as a toy, or in crafting, home decor and floristry.

The alert highlights the harms caused by the dehydrated bead/s when swallowed that can expand post-ingestion, causing a blockage along the gastrointestinal (GI) digestive tract requiring surgical removal. Additionally, a hydrated or dehydrated bead can cause asphyxiation from aspiration if swallowed.

Head Protection Products

OPSS are also looking into the issue of 'baby personal protective equipment (PPE)' type products. For example, there are products for sale that are being marketed for use by babies and toddlers and claim to offer head protection in the event of a fall, such as:

- [Baby Head Protection Pillow – Thebossbaby](#)
- [BabySafe - Head Protector – TinyWonders](#)
- [JINYJIA Baby Head Protector, Baby Head Protector Backpack, Adjustable Toddler Head Protection Safety Pads, for 4-24 Months Baby Learning Walking, Honeybee : Amazon.co.uk: Home & Kitchen](#)

Concerns have been raised that potentially the design and construction of this type of product presents an intolerable risk of harm to babies and young toddlers and they are gathering evidence around the risks. If you or anyone else you know are aware of any incidents/incident data relating to this product type, please contact OPSSIncidentManagement@businessandtrade.gov.uk, anything you share will be hugely appreciated and can only increase the robustness of the evidence base.