

Choosing safer products for your baby

Baby slings and carriers



A baby sling or carrier can provide comfort and support for your baby, allowing you to carry your child hands-free. However, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warns that there are risks associated with them.

Newborns and young babies have delicate neck muscles and their airways can easily become blocked if they are not correctly positioned in a sling or carrier. Additionally, the type of fabric used for the sling is crucial as it can potentially cause suffocation. Don't be tempted by cheap products from online market sellers and home crafters as they may not meet British standards.



How to choose a baby sling or carrier

- Always buy from trusted retailers
- Check that the sling or carrier conforms to British Standards - this tells you that the product has passed tests to keep your child safe
- Always read the manufacturer's instructions and follow their advice on whether your baby's size, weight and age are right for the sling or carrier
- Regularly check for signs of wear and tear and dispose of the sling or carrier if you notice any of these issues

...giving children the best start



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**



How to use a baby sling or carrier

As with all activities and products that are used for children, it is vital to follow safety advice and manufacturer's guides. The Consortium of UK Sling Manufacturers and Retailers advises parents to follow the T.I.C.K.S advice when using a baby sling or carrier:

- **Tight** - to hug your baby close
- **In view** - to be able to see your baby's face
- **Close** - to be able to kiss
- **Keep chin off the chest** - keeping the airways clear
- **Supported back** - in an upright position

Additionally, never sleep while holding a baby in a sling or carrier. This ensures that your baby's airway is kept clear and you can check that they are not getting too hot.

More information about baby slings and carriers can be found on The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents website at www.rosipa.com/policy/home-safety/advice/product/baby-slings



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For more advice and support on keeping your little ones safe, especially those aged between 0-4 years, visit www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/childsafety.

If you have any concerns about unsafe baby products or toys, report them to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on **0808 223 1133**. To check a product hasn't been recalled or is unsafe to use, search 'product recalls' on **gov.uk**.