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### Three-year-old Dies After Dresser Falls On Him

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Anita Clark Wisconsin State Journal

A Waunakee child died Thursday of injuries he suffered when his new "big boy" dresser fell on him in his bedroom.

Collin Barberino, who celebrated his third birthday in September, died at UW Children's Hospital. His family donated his organs to help others.

He was the son of Michael and Diane Barberino and the younger brother of Adam Barberino, 6.

"He was a very loving child. He was just coming into his own" after a rough time with food allergies when he was younger, his father said Thursday.

Collin, who had just mastered potty-training and spelling his name, recently declared he was a big boy and wanted a big boy bed.

"We bought a whole new bedroom set for him," including the dresser, Michael Barberino said. "We don't know if he climbed the drawers. We don't know what happened."

Collin suffered chest injuries Tuesday afternoon in his bedroom at his home at 205 Sawgrass Court in Waunakee when the dresser fell on him. Waunakee Police Lt. Joe Peterson described the dresser as about 4 feet tall and weighing about 150 pounds.

While not common, injuries to children from falling furniture reflect the relentless curiosity and creativity of youngsters exploring their environment, a safety expert said Thursday.

"The problem with home safety or child-proofing a house is that it's a constant job," said Bridget Clementi, coordinator of Safe Kids Wisconsin.

Supervision is important, "but in reality you can't be with them all the time," Clementi said.

Blaine Neupert, owner of Don's Oak Furniture stores in Madison, said customers can buy a steel cable that attaches to the back of furniture and can be secured to a wall stud.

"I get very few requests," he said, although he expects the Waunakee tragedy to trigger some purchases. The device costs \$4 and is called a furniture-tipping restraining kit.

Collin was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 209 South St., Waunakee, where his funeral will be at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Friends may call from 10 a.m. until noon at the Winn Funeral Home, 5785 Highway Q, Waunakee.

In his obituary, his family remembered Collin as a little boy who liked to be told he was handsome, gave the best hugs and kisses and "offered a last gift through organ donation to others in need."

## \ Safety recommendations

Child safety experts recommend anchoring large furniture to the wall. Different products are available, including cables and brackets. Note that the cables must be anchored to a wall stud.

Parents are also advised to store heavy items on bottom shelves and in lower drawers of furniture, to use broad-based stands for televisions and appliances and to avoid using pedestal tables to hold heavy items.

More safety information is available at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) or by calling toll-free 866-228-5670.