Sept. 1, 1953 L. MOORE ET AL 2,650,590

INFANT RESTRAINING DEVICE

Filed March 17, 1952

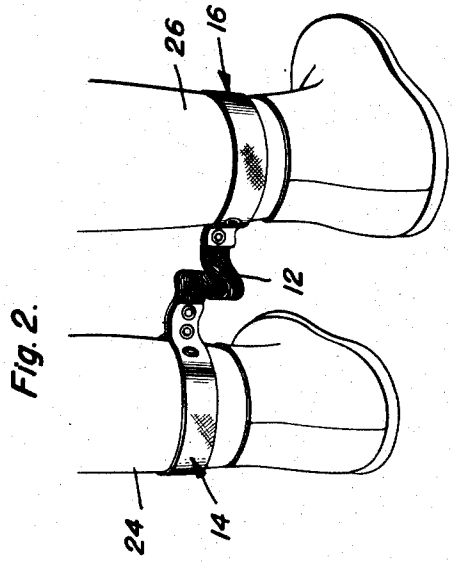


Fig. 2.

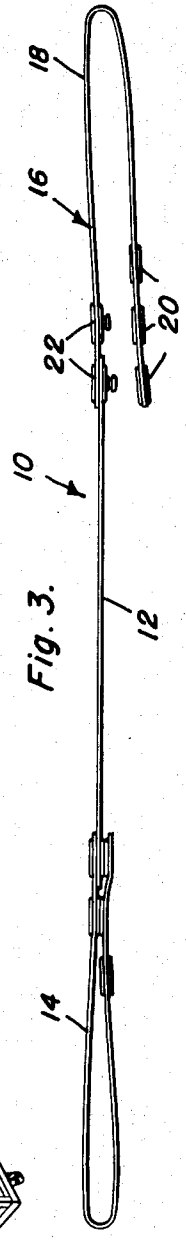


Fig. 3.

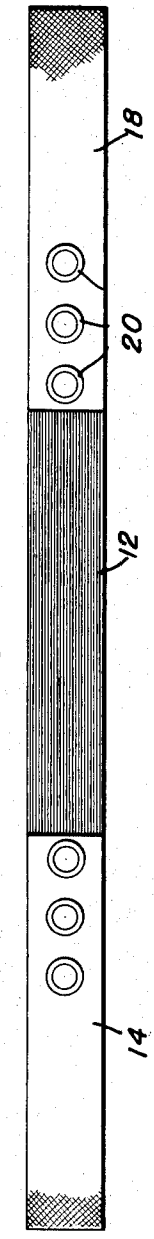


Fig. 4.

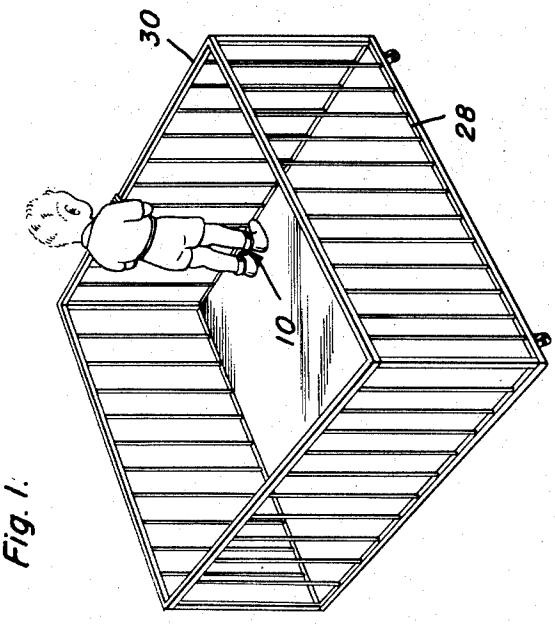


Fig. 1.

Leroy Moore
Dorothy S. Moore
INVENTORS

BY Thomas A. O'Brien and Harvey B. Jacobson
Attorneys

Patented Sept. 1, 1953

2,650,590

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,650,590

INFANT RESTRAINING DEVICE

Leroy Moore and Dorothy S. Moore,
Jackson, Miss.

Application March 17, 1952, Serial No. 276,998

1 Claim. (Cl. 128—134)

1

This invention relates to an infant restraining device for limiting the movement of an infant's legs.

Once an infant has learned to walk, he is no longer satisfied in having his movements restrained and begins to dislike being placed in a play pen or crib. Inasmuch as a child's desire for freedom is the same as an adult, he soon begins to try climbing out of the play pen or crib in which he is confined. A child will soon learn that by lifting his legs high enough that he will be able to move himself over the upper rail of the play pen or crib in which he is placed. However, a small child is unable to cope with the situation once he has obtained the top of the rail and normally falls out of the bed on his head or face thereby hurting himself. It is, therefore, desirous to provide a suitable restraining means for infants which would permit normal movement of their legs and at the same time prevent one leg from being raised sufficiently to permit the child to climb over the rail of a play pen or crib.

The primary object of this invention is to provide an improved infant restraining device which will permit normal movement of the infant's legs so as to permit walking and at the same time restraining the infant from raising one of his legs above the other sufficiently to climb over a rail of a play pen or crib in which he is confined.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved infant restraining device which will restrain an infant from a climbing without exposing the infant to injury due to the utilization of the device.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved infant restraining device for attachment to the ankles of the infant in order to restrain the same from climbing, said device being of simple construction and formed of inexpensive materials whereby it is economically feasible.

Another object of this invention is to provide an improved infant restraining device which is formed of flexible materials whereby it may be conveniently packaged for shipment and display.

A further object of this invention is to provide an improved infant restraining device for attachment to the angles of an infant, said restraining device including straps adapted to encircle the ankles of an infant, said strips being adjustable whereby said device may be utilized on infants of various sizes.

With these objects definitely in view, this invention resides in certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of elements and portions as will be hereinafter described in detail in the specification, particularly pointed out in the appended claims, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings which form a material part of this application and in which:

2

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an infant standing in a conventional play pen, the infant having secured to his ankles opposite ends of the improved infant restraining device which is the subject of this invention;

Figure 2 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the lower portion of an infant's legs and including the ankles and feet thereof, the ankles of the infant having secured thereto the infant restraining device, the infant's legs being placed closely together and a flexible link connecting the strap ends of the restraining device being shown in contracted position;

Figure 3 is a top plan view of the infant restraining device of Figure 2 and shows the general construction thereof, one of the straps at the ends of the restraining device being shown fastened to form a loop and the other strap being illustrated as being unfastened; and

Figure 4 is a front elevational view of the infant restraining device of Figure 3 and showing the general construction thereof.

Similar characters of reference designate similar or identical elements and portions throughout the specification and throughout the different views of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings in detail, it will be seen that there is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 the improved infant restraining device, which is the subject of this invention, the restraining device being referred to in general by the reference numeral 10. The infant restraining device 10 includes a central elastic link 12 formed of a length of conventional elastic tape. Secured to the opposite ends of the elastic link 12 are straps 14 and 16, the straps being identical and adapted to engage opposite legs of an infant.

Inasmuch as the straps 14 and 16 are identical, only the strap 16 will be explained in detail. The strap 16 is formed of a length of conventional belting or plastic strip 18 which is doubled upon itself to form a loop. One end of the belting 18 is provided with a plurality of socket grippers 20 in longitudinal alignment and the other end of the belting 18 is provided with a plurality of stud grippers 22 which are complementary to the socket grippers 20. It will be understood that the gripper elements 20 and

22 are conventional and readily obtainable on the market. Due to the number of gripper elements 20 and 22, the diameter of the loop formed by the belting 18 may be greatly varied. When it is desired to place the strap 16 around the ankle of an infant, the gripper elements 20 and 22 are disengaged and the belting 18 placed around the ankle of the infant and selective grip elements snapped into engagement.

In order that the elastic link 12 may be firmly secured to the strap 16, one end of the strap 16 is overlapped at one end of the elastic link 12 and the two secured together by one of the stud grippers 22. While the elastic link 12 has been illustrated and described as being secured to the strap 16 by a stud gripper 22, it will be readily apparent that if so desired that end of the elastic link 12 may be secured to the end of the belting 18 to which the socket grippers 20 are secured and fastened thereto by the end socket gripper 20.

As is best illustrated in Figure 2, when it is desired to restrain the movement of an infant's leg, the strap 14 is secured to the ankle of the left leg 24 of the infant and the strap 16 is secured to the right leg 26. The length of the elastic link 12 is such to permit normal walking of the infant and at the same time prevent one of the legs of the infant from being raised above the other a sufficient amount to permit the infant to climb. While the straps 14 and 16 have been associated with specific legs of the infant, it will be understood that they may be reversed.

Referring now to Figure 1, it will be seen that there is illustrated a conventional play pen having a bottom 28 and side rails 30. Standing on the bottom 28 is a small child or infant who is in the walking stage and has been placed in the play pen to prevent him from leaving a designated area while the mother is busy with other duties. The infant is of such size where he is walking and is naturally desirous of climbing out of the play pen and joining his mother or straying off to other parts of the house. Normally the infant will attempt to climb over the side rail 30 and having reached the top thereof will lose his balance and fall either out of the play pen or back into the same and thereby injuring himself. The infant illustrated in the play pen has his legs

connected together by the infant restraining device 10, which is the subject of this invention, and is allowed to walk although the lifting one leg only is restrained. With his legs so restrained, the infant is prevented from climbing up to the top of the side rail 30 of the play pen and therefore cannot possibly escape from the same. However, the infant restraining device 10 permits freedom of the legs and he is in no way uncomfortable.

The operation of this device will be understood from the foregoing description of the details thereof, taken in connection with the above recited objects and drawings. Further description would appear to be unnecessary.

Minor modifications of the device, varying in minor details from the embodiment of the device illustrated and described here, may be resorted to without departure from the spirit and scope of this invention, as defined in the appended claim.

Having described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

An infant restraining device comprising a pair of individual straps adapted to engage an infant's ankles, said straps being detachably connected by a separate elastic link, said elastic link being of a length to permit walking and at the same time to discourage climbing, said straps having adjustable fastening means for accommodating various size infants, said fastening means including a plurality of gripper studs at one end of each strap and complementary gripper sockets at the other end of each strap, said elastic link having gripper sockets at its ends engaging said gripper studs to removably secure said elastic link to said straps.

LEROY MOORE.
DOROTHY S. MOORE.

References Cited in the file of this patent

UNITED STATES PATENTS

Number	Name	Date
1,636,101	McLallen	July 19, 1927
2,093,744	Tuckey	Sept. 21, 1937
2,425,489	Peterson	Aug. 12, 1947