

How to Prevent Poisonings!

Young children, especially those under the age of six, are extremely susceptible to unintentional poisoning because of their natural curiosity and tendency to explore new items by putting them in their mouths. The most common causes of



poisoning in child care are household chemicals, medications, and toxic plants. Fortunately, it is easy to safeguard your facility and significantly lower the risk of an

unintentional poisoning.

Never leave poisonous products unattended around children.

How to Prevent Poisoning

- All potential poisons should be used as recommended and stored in a locked room or cabinet. Examples of some of these products are: cleaners, detergents, aerosol cans, cosmetics, medications, pesticides, lawn care products, automotive products and fuels.
- Cleaning products must be stored in their original containers and returned to their secure storage place immediately after use.
- Always store cleaning products and pesticides separate from food products.
- Never use pesticides while children are present. Consult an expert on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for safe pest control.
- Keep all medication in child-resistant bottles and locked up when not in use. Never refer to medicine as candy.
- Use nontoxic plants in both indoor and outdoor environments. Make sure plants are labeled for easy identification in case a poisoning does occur.
- Store employee purses out of reach of children. They many contain poisons.
- Teach children to ask an adult before drinking or eating anything they are unsure of. Some household products may look like their favorite drink.
- Keep sanitizing hand gels out of reach as they have a high content of alcohol.

- Always have the Poison Center National Hotline number posted next to every telephone. (1-800-222-1222)

Keep children within site and sound at all times. It only takes a minute for a poisoning to occur.

What to Do in Case of Poisoning

If you suspect a child has had contact with or has ingested a toxic substance:

- Call the Poison Center National Hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Take the product to the phone with you.
- If the child is having seizures, won't wake up or stops breathing, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- Do not induce vomiting. Syrup of Ipecac is **no** longer recommended.
- If the Poison Center says an emergency room visit is necessary, call an ambulance.

Talking Points for Parents

- Discuss with parents ways to prevent poisoning in the home.
- Share methods used at the child care facility, such as keeping all chemicals locked up.
- Remind parents that some plants can be toxic when ingested.



Resources:

Policies, procedures and poisons lists:

www.indiana.edu/~cchealth

Indiana Poison Control Center: 800-222-1222 or

www.clarian.org/poisoncontrol

Information consistent with Caring for Our Children 2002:

<http://nrc.uchsc.edu>