



PREVENTING MEDICATION-RELATED CHILDHOOD POISONING

Store medications locked out of children's sight and reach.

- Don't leave medicine in your purse or an unlocked kitchen or bathroom cabinet. Don't put it on a kitchen or bedside table.
- Be aware of medications that may be in your handbag. Store handbags out of the reach of young children.
- Read labels to find out what can be poisonous. Keep those things separate from toothpaste, soap and other things you use every day.
- Never leave medicines or potentially poisonous household products unattended while you are using them.
- Never leave out loose pills.
- Buy child-resistant packages when available. Keep products in their original packages to avoid confusion.

Be safe when taking or administering medication.

- Always read labels, follow directions and give medicines to children based on their weights and ages. Only use the dispensers packaged with children's medications.
- Avoid confusion by keeping all medicines and potentially poisonous household products in their original packages.
- Don't take medicine or vitamins in front of kids, and don't call them candy.
- Don't involve children as helpers with your medication. They should not remind you to take medicine or bring you water, for example.
- Tell grandparents and friends about avoiding medication poisoning when your family visits their homes.

Keep the toll-free nationwide poison control center number (1-800-222-1222) and local emergency numbers near every telephone. If you suspect poisoning and a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe or is having a seizure, call 911. Otherwise, take the product to the phone and call the poison control hotline.

- Poison control centers offer fast, free, confidential help in English and Spanish. Most poisonings are resolved over the phone. The number works from anywhere in the United States 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Follow the operator's instructions.
- Don't make the child vomit or give him anything unless directed.