

# Poisoning

February 2017

## Lock away poisons – up high and out of reach

**Why?** Young children put everything in their mouth.

They don't understand it could be dangerous.

Most children are poisoned from swallowing medicines and cleaning products around the home.

✔ Lock away all poisons, medicines and dangerous items in a cupboard up high, at least 1.5 metres above ground level, out of sight and reach of children.



## Safe storage

✔ Make sure low cupboards and drawers have a lock on them.

**Why?** Many cleaning products are stored in low cupboards under the sink or dishwasher. Think about how easily children can get to your cupboards and drawers.

❌ **Don't leave bags around where young children can get in to them.**

**Why?** They might find medicines, hand sanitiser or other small items which they can put in their mouth.



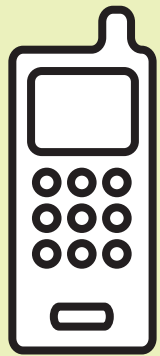
**Check what plants you have at home and get rid of any dangerous ones.**

✅ Teach your children that gardening is fun but not all plants in the garden are for eating.



*Children can sometimes be poisoned after being given too much medicine.*

✓ Read instructions carefully and record when and what dose of medicine you give them to reduce the chance of overdose.



*What to do if something happens*

If your child has swallowed something you think might be poisonous:

- take your child and the product to the phone with you;
- ring the **POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE** on **13 11 26** and follow their advice.

## Safety checklist to prevent poisoning

- ☐ Do you store medicines and cleaning products out of sight and reach of children in a container or cupboard at least 1.5 meters off the ground?
- ☐ Do you always check the recommended dosage when giving medication to children, even if you have given it before?
- ☐ Do you use child resistant locks on cupboards and cabinets in which poisonous products are stored? These can be purchased from Kidsafe.
- ☐ Are all products stored in their original, clearly labelled container?
- ☐ Do you buy products with child resistant lids? **Remember child resistant is not always child-proof – many toddlers can open them given time.**
- ☐ Are medicines in the fridge kept in a small, portable and lockable container?
- ☐ Have you reminded grandparents and other carers about storing medicines safely when children are around?
- ☐ Do you ensure handbags and other bags are kept out of reach, particularly visitors bags?
- ☐ Do you make sure you only refer to medications as medicines, not as 'lollies' or 'sweets' as this gives children false ideas?
- ☐ Have you checked the plants in your garden for any dangerous ones?

### For more information, contact:

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