

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.



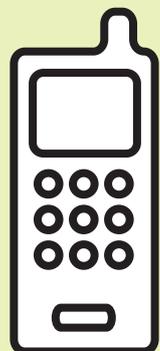
Check what plants you have at home and get rid of any dangerous ones.

✔ 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:

Kidsafe SA Inc.
Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Rd,
North Adelaide SA 5006
Phone: (08) 8161 6318
Email: sa@kidsafe.org.au
Website: www.kidsafesa.com.au



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