

# Poisoning

December 2020

## 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.

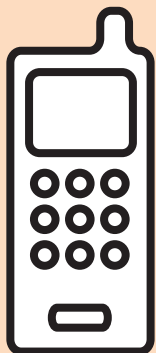


**Check what plants you have at home and get rid of any dangerous ones.**

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

For more information and for a list of some common poisonous plants, please visit [www.kidsafesa.com](http://www.kidsafesa.com).





## *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.



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

- ✔ Read instructions carefully and record when and how much medicine you give them to reduce the chance of overdose.

## Safety checklist to prevent poisoning

- Do you store medicines and cleaning products out of reach at least 1.5 metres 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 where 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 never refer to medications as 'lollies' or 'sweets' as this gives children false ideas?
- Have you checked the plants in your garden are not dangerous?

### For more information, contact:

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