

Accidents With Children and Poison

Accidents can happen even if you are careful to keep poisons away from children. Here are some tips to help you:

- prevent poisoning accidents
- spot the signs of poisoning and get help quickly

Be Safe. Be Prepared.

1. Keep these items in cupboards with childproof locks. They can be unsafe to children:
 - Alcohol (both rubbing alcohol and drinks like gin or rum)
 - Medicine
 - Diet and vitamin pills
 - Pills with iron
 - Cleaning and decorating products, like bleach and paint
 - Anything that has lead in it. (Examples: ceramic plates and cups)

Lead poisoning builds up over time. A blood test is the best way to be sure your children are safe.

2. Keep your doctor's phone number and the number for Poison Control near the phone. Poison Control is listed in the front pages of your phone book.
3. Keep these items with your medicines. You can buy them or order them at the drug store:
 - Syrup of Ipecac
 - Activated charcoal

The Signs of Poisoning

Watch out for:

- Sudden illness
- Unusual sleepiness
- Eyes going around in circles
- Anything new or strange about your child
- Bad vomiting (throwing up)

Also look for:

- Burns or stains around the lips or mouth
- Strange smells – especially on the breath
- Opened or spilled medicines, alcohol, or cleaning products

REMEMBER

- Always check with Poison Control or your doctor before giving your child anything if they have been poisoned.
- Never give anything to a child who is not awake. Always wait for medical help.
- Don't give your child syrup of ipecac and activated charcoal at the same time.

Accidents With Children and Poison (cont.)

Be Ready to Take Action

Most poisons can hurt your child very quickly. If you see signs of poisoning:

- 1) Stay calm.
- 2) ***If you think that the poison was a medicine***, call your doctor or Poison Control right away.

If you think the poison was a cleaning or decorating product, follow the first-aid steps on the label. Then call the Poison Control or your doctor.

- 3) When you call Poison Control or your doctor, tell them:
 - Your child's age, height, and weight
 - Any health problems your child has
 - What the poison was
 - How the poison was taken: Was it swallowed? Inhaled (breathed)? Splashed in the eyes?
 - If your child has vomited (thrown up) or not

4) Listen carefully to your doctor or Poison Control. Do exactly what they say.

5) If you are told to make a child vomit, give *either*:

- **Syrup of ipecac:**

- *For children aged 1 to 12*, give 1 tablespoon. Then give 1 or 2 glasses of water.
- *For children over age 12*, give 2 tablespoons. Then give 1 or 2 glasses of water.

OR

- **Activated charcoal:** This helps stop the poison from spreading through the body. Give only as much as you are told to give.

To Learn More...

Call SAFEUSA at 1-888-252-7751.