National Poison Prevention Week

Children Act Fast, So Do Poisons

Tips to help keep children safe from poison exposures

Poison -
Poisoning is the #1 cause of injury death in the U.S.*, and the number of children dying from poisoning has more than doubled since 1999.* Just about anything can be poisonous if it is used in the wrong way, by the wrong person, or in the wrong amount. Some things are harmful if they come into direct contact with your eyes or skin. Others may be toxic if you breathe them or swallow them.

Top 10 Pediatric (<6) Exposure Substances

- Cosmetics/Personal Care Products
- Household Cleaning Substances
- Analgesics (pain relievers)
- Foreign Bodies/Toys/Misc.
- Poisonous Preparations
- Vitamins
- Antihistamines
- Pesticides
- Gastrointestinal Preparations
- Plants

In 2014, about half of exposure cases managed by poison centers involved children younger than 6.* That’s over 1 million calls!

Read and follow the directions on the label of any cleaning product, chemical, pesticide, or medicine prior to use.

It only takes seconds for a child to get a hold of something poisonous. Be prepared!

Save the Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222, in your phone, and post it in a visible place in your home!

Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home and check their batteries regularly.

PRACTICE SAFE STORAGE:
Ideally, the following things should be stored up, away, and out of sight of children. Alternatively, keep these substances in locked cabinets or containers. Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a 100% child-proof container:

- All medications and pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and supplements
- Tobacco and e-cigarette products, and beverages or products that contain alcohol
- Laundry and cleaning products
- Pesticides and insect repellants
- Button batteries
- Any type of oil or lubricant, including fragrance oils, tiki torch oils, engine oil, etc.
- Personal care products, especially contact lens disinfectants and hand sanitizers
- Other chemicals

If you have any questions about how to prevent poisonings, or if you or someone you know suspects poisoning, call the Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222. Experts are available 24/7/365.

For more information on National Poison Prevention Week, visit poisonprevention.org

#preventpoison  #NPPW16