

Be Poison Smart![™]

Teaching Guidelines

Why teach poison prevention?

Annually, *over 1 million children under the age of five are poisoned*, with more than 130,000 needing medical attention. These cases account for almost 53% of all poison exposures reported in the United States.

Over 75% of poison exposures can be managed at home, without the high cost of 911 emergency services or hospital visits. Yet, less than half of all families call a poison center when a child or other family member is poisoned.

Why do young children get into poisons?

- **A child is constantly changing and growing.** Products safe from a 10-month-old can be easy to reach for the same child at 11 months of age.
- **Children's strong, natural curiosity** means they're often "getting into things".
- **Children learn by doing what others do.** When they see someone smoking cigarettes, taking medicines, drinking alcohol, they copy what they see.
- **To a child, many substances are Pretty Poisons¹** they look like something good to eat or to drink. Some examples: Palmolive dish soap *is the same bright green color as a Sprite soda bottle****blue mouth wash, antifreeze, glass cleaner *look like blueberry flavored punch.* Spray insecticide *works the same way as a spray can of cooking oil* ***white plastic containers of ammonia or bleach *look like milk containers****

How can I help?

Share Be Poison Smart![™] with families you know, and join us in bringing the Be Poison Smart![™] message to your community. By helping families to Be Poison Smart![™], you help children to be poison safe.

¹ see also **Be Poison Smart![™] List of Pretty Poisons**

Here's how to Be Poison Smart.™

- 1. When you bring something home**
Think, “Is this product a pretty poison?”
“Is this medicine or pills?”
“Does it have alcohol, gasoline in it?”
“Does it contain insecticides or pesticides?”
Yes? Store it out of sight and out of reach.
- 2. If you think someone might be poisoned?**
Call the Poison Center first.
 - Help is there 24 hours every day.
 - Calls are free and confidential.
 - Bring the person and the poison to the phone when you call.
- 3. Keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand.**
Use only when the Poison Center or a doctor tells you to use it.
- 4. Lower chances of getting lead poisoning:**
 - Wash hands often.
 - Eat foods high in calcium and iron.
 - Check for lead paint chips.
 - Ask doctor or health department about lead screening.

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