

Teaching Children about Poisons

When teaching children about poisons, the program should be designed to present key messages about poisoning using age appropriate educational interactive methods. The goal is to provide children with the knowledge and skills to:

- ❖ Identify poisons
- ❖ Prevent poisonings
- ❖ Respond appropriately in poisoning emergencies

Programs for children can be conducted at:

Schools	Scout meetings
Child care centers	Religious institutions
Libraries	After school programs

After each program, children should be able to:

- ❖ Define a poison
- ❖ Describe a poison (as something that should not be touched or tasted).
- ❖ Identify common poisons found in and around the home.
- ❖ Identify “caution” words on household product container labels.
- ❖ Explain the proper storage of poisons.
- ❖ Describe when to take medicine.
- ❖ Identify someone who gives you medicine.
- ❖ Explain ways medicine and vitamins can be poisonous.
- ❖ Explain why plants, flowers, berries and mushrooms should not be eaten.
- ❖ Describe the appropriate response in a poison emergency.
- ❖ Identify the number to call in a poison emergency.

Needed Materials

- Overhead projector (if using PowerPoint presentation).
- Chalkboard, Dry Erase Board, or Flip chart.
- Copies of Activity Sheets (See **Activity Sheets** section to select an activity).
- Several household product empty bottles/containers or pictures. Examples: all-purpose cleaner, ammonia, furniture polish, bleach, windshield washer, nail polish remover, mouthwash, vitamins
- Writing tools (enough for each child)
- Poison Prevention Materials (See **Program Request and Public Education Material List**).
- Copies of children’s Pre/Post Tests

Don't forget to order your free poison prevention materials early to make sure you receive them in time for your program. Remember to return your **Program Report Form** after you have conducted a program!!