

# CHILDREN ACT FAST ... SO DO POISONS!

*Young children will eat and drink almost anything, often without respect to taste, color or consistency. Medicines and household products, ordinary plants, and old lead paint are common sources of poisoning. Fortunately, careful planning can prevent most accidents from happening.*



- Keep household products and medicines in a locked cabinet or closet. Use special child safety latches on any cabinets without locks. Return all medicines and household products to their proper place when you are through with them, even if you will be using them again shortly - children move quickly.
- ASPIRIN is the #1 cause of accidental poisoning. Always keep out of reach, even if the bottle has a "safety cap".
- Keep all products properly labeled. Read the label before using, even if you are familiar with the directions. Keep all items in their original containers (don't use an old soda bottle or cup for storage).
- If children attend daycare, homecare or school and are taking medication, ask the pharmacist for a spare, labeled bottle with the medicine's name and dosage instructions.
- Never put filled containers directly into the trash. Pour old medicine down the drain, rinse the container and then discard it.
- Turn on the light when giving or taking medicine ... many bottles and containers look similar and are easily confused in the dark.
- Children will imitate adults – avoid taking medicine in their presence. **MEDICINE IS NOT CANDY.**
- Teach children to ask permission **before** touching a non-food item.
- Houseplants, flowering, garden and wild plants can cause serious illness or even death if ingested. Many plants look like they are good to eat: they are brightly colored and smell sweet. Supervise children that are too young to understand that plants are not food.
- Lead poisoning can occur whenever a child has access to older lead based paint used on household walls and woodwork. Remove all loose pieces of paint: replace lead based paint with a lead free paint.
- Call the Poison Hotline **before** you induce vomiting. In some cases, immediate vomiting is necessary to remove the poison as quickly as possible. However, in the case of irritants like lye or bleach, vomiting may cause additional burning and damage. It is helpful to know the name, quantity and how long ago the substance was ingested. Have the product "in hand" so you can read the specific information.

**If you suspect a poisoning,  
CALL THE POISON HOTLINE at  
1-800-222-1222**