

# GRADES 3-4

## POISON PREVENTION TEACHING PROGRAM

### THE LESSON WILL HELP STUDENTS:

1. Define what a poison is.
2. Identify the four forms of poisons.
3. Identify things in and around the home that could be poisonous.
4. Describe ways to stay safe from poisons at home and at school and to protect younger children from accidental poisonings.
5. Know what to do if a poisoning or suspected poisoning occurs.

The Missouri Poison Center welcomes teachers, child care providers, scout leaders, EMS providers, and other community members to use this lesson to teach children about poison safety. It can be taught at any time of the year. We want to support teachers with resources when they teach topics including, but not limited to:

**FIRST AID | PERSONAL SAFETY | MEDICINE SAFETY | HOME SAFETY**

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. INTRODUCE YOURSELF

#### B. EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE HERE TODAY

1. To teach poison safety
2. Want the children to stay healthy and safe
3. The students can help younger children stay healthy and safe from poisons also.

### POISON INFORMATION

Educating students about poisons is not always easy because poisons that can hurt people may be products that we use every day.

#### A. WHAT IS A POISON?

1. A substance that may make you sick, hurt you, or may injure and damage tissues and organs. Poisons can be found inside and outside.
2. Sometimes poisons can be things we see or use every day in our homes, and even at school. A poison can be:

*Cleaners, chemicals or other products in the house or yard*

*Medicines - if too much is taken*

*Medicines - if it is taken by the wrong person*

*Things you might find in your parent's or grandparent's medicine cabinet*

*Things you might find underneath a sink or cabinet*

*Plants, berries, or mushrooms*

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3. Ways/Routes people get poison in their body:

- A. MOUTH** (*swallowing a poison*)
- B. NOSE** (*breathing a poison*)
- C. EYES** (*getting poison in eyes*)
- D. SKIN** (*getting poison on skin*)

4. Poisons may be found in four different forms: (you may want to gather an assortment of packages or pictures of products that could be poisonous)

- A. SOLIDS** (*pills, rat poison*)
- B. LIQUIDS** (*mouthwash, liquid cough and cold medicine, cleaning products, automobile chemicals*)
- C. SPRAYS** (*furniture polish, bug spray*)
- D. GAS/INVISIBLES** (*picture of car with exhaust fumes, smoke*)

5. A poison is something that will hurt a person if it is:

## **USED THE WRONG WAY**

EXAMPLE: *Mixing different cleaning products can make a poisonous gas.*

TEACH: *Always read the label before using any product to make sure it is being used correctly.*

## **USED BY THE WRONG PERSON**

EXAMPLE: *Your little brother likes the sweet flavored cold medicine that is sitting on the counter and he reaches it and drinks it.*

TEACH: *Never take medicine that belongs to someone else. Never take medicine without parent supervision. Always read the label and follow the directions. Keep medicines locked away from young children.*

## **USED IN THE WRONG AMOUNT**

EXAMPLE: *If someone took too much medicine.*

TEACH: *Children should never take medicine by themselves. Always take medicine with parent/adult supervision. Medicine only works if it is used correctly. Medicine helps us to get well when we are sick, if taken properly. All medicines have directions on their labels and those directions must be followed carefully.*

## **PREVENTION**

### **A. STEPS TO TAKE TO PREVENT POISONINGS:**

1. Keep poison out of reach and locked up.
2. Tell a grown-up right away if you see a poison sitting out that should be put away.
3. Never take medicine by yourself.
4. Never take someone else's medicine.
5. Never refer to medicine as "candy", because it can easily confuse young children.
6. Do not play with things that could be poisonous.

### **B. HOME ALONE**

1. Know where parents are and how they can be reached in emergencies.

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## POISON HELP

### A. MISSOURI POISON CENTER

1. The poison center is the place to call when you have questions about a poison.
2. Recite the “1-800-222-1222” aloud several times with your students.

### B. NATIONAL POISON HELP LOGO

1. Hold up the Poison Help logo, or show the phone sticker or magnet.
2. Boys and girls, this symbol means that someone can help you if you or somebody you know has eaten or touched a poison. The phone number is to the poison center. It’s important for your mom or dad to have the number to the poison center nearby in case they need to call. The nurses and pharmacists who answer the phone are people who know all about poisons. They will make sure that you get help. Your mom or dad or another grown-up should call the poison center right away if you or someone else has eaten, tasted, smelled, or touched a poison.

## ADDITIONAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### A. GAME OF “JUST SUPPOSE”

1. Suppose you were playing in your home and you found a box of pills or a bottle of medicine open with the cap off. What would you do? Why?
2. Suppose you found your baby brother or sister playing with something like a cleaner or detergent. What would you do? Why?
3. Suppose you found a soda bottle in the garage. Looks like apple juice. Would you taste it? Why or why not?
4. Suppose you found a bush with pretty red berries on it. Would it be okay to eat any of the berries? Why or why not?

**B. COLORING & ACTIVITY SHEETS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND MISTAKEN IDENTITY POSTER, POISON HELP STICKERS OR MAGNETS CAN BE ORDERED FROM [WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG).**

Education is key to prevention. The Missouri Poison Center welcomes teachers, child care providers, scout leaders, EMS providers and other community educators to use these free resources to teach about poison safety.

**MISSOURI**  
POISON CENTER  
1-800-222-1222

**BE POISON SMART!** KEEP POISONOUS PRODUCTS  
OUT OF SIGHT & OUT OF REACH.

**[WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG)**

