

GRADES K-2

POISON PREVENTION TEACHING PROGRAM

THE LESSON WILL HELP STUDENTS:

1. Understand what a poison is.
2. Know the different forms of poison such as liquids, solids, gases and sprays.
3. Identify things in and around the home that could be poisonous.
4. Learn how to stay safe from poisons at home and at school.
5. Know the importance of the toll-free number for Poison Help.

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 children can help the rest of their family stay healthy and safe

POISON INFORMATION

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

A. ASK "WHO CAN TELL ME WHAT A POISON IS?"

1. A poison is something that if you eat, smell, taste, or touch, can make you sick or hurt you, or even kill you. Poisons can be found inside and outside. Always ask a grown-up first before you eat or drink something new. If you don't know what it is, stay away! Poisons can be things we see or use every day.
2. Poison may come in a pretty box, jar or bottle.
3. Poison may smell and taste good.
4. Sometimes poisons can be things we see or use every day in our homes, and even at school. Poisons 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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5. A poison is anything that will hurt a person if it is:

USED THE WRONG WAY

EXAMPLE: *Mom is cleaning the bathroom but her usual cleaner doesn't seem to be cleaning the tub very well. She remembers that she bought a new type of cleaner last time she went to the store so she decides to try that. She pours the cleaner into the tub but, all of a sudden, her eyes start to burn and she starts to cough.*

THE PROBLEM: *Mixing different cleaning products sometimes 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 ear hurts and the doctor gives you some of that pink bubblegum flavored medicine that tastes really good. The pharmacist tells your mom that she should keep the medicine in the refrigerator.*

THE PROBLEM: *Your little brother likes the bubblegum flavored medicine too and when he finds it in the refrigerator, he drinks it.*

TEACH: *Never take medicine that belongs to someone else. Never take medicine by yourself. Only take medicine from your parents or adult you trust. All medicines have directions on their labels and those directions must be followed carefully. Keep medicines locked away from young children.*

USED IN THE WRONG AMOUNT

EXAMPLE: *You go on a camping trip with your family and you need to take some medicine. The label says that you should take 2 teaspoons, but Mom forgot to bring the measuring spoon so you decide to just guess how much to take and drink a big mouthful.*

TEACH: *Children should NEVER take medicine without 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.*

TEACH: *Always take medicine with parent/adult supervision.*

6. Inside poisons should always be kept locked up, or put away when not in use. Tell a grown-up right away if you see a poison sitting out that should be put away.

7. Ways people get poisoned:

A. MOUTH *(swallowing a poison)*

B. NOSE *(breathing a poison)*

C. EYES *(getting poison in eyes)*

D. SKIN *(getting poison on skin)*

B. WHAT DOES A POISON LOOK LIKE?

1. Gather an assortment of packages from poisonous product (or pictures of products) to illustrate the 4 forms of poison:

A. SOLIDS *(powder, pills, rodent poison, plants)*

B. LIQUIDS *(cough and cold medicine, cleaning products, antifreeze)*

C. SPRAYS *(furniture polish, bug spray)*

D. GAS/INVISIBLES *(picture of car with exhaust fumes, smoke)*

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- ASK:** *Take a look around at the students in our class – Do we all look the same?*
- TEACH:** *Of course not. You have different colored hair and eyes and are different shapes and sizes. It's the same way with poison – it comes in different forms.*
- SHOW:** *Products demonstrating the 4 forms of poison one at a time and ask the students to tell you what form of poison you hold up. You may also ask for suggestions of other products that would fit into each category.*
- SAY:** *Poisons come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Poisons can be solids, like a pill or plant or they can be liquids like some cleaning supplies. Some poisons come in spray bottles. Other poisons can be gases, which we cannot see. Poison can even look pretty or smell good.*
- ASK:** *Can you think of something in your home that could be a poison and it's a pretty color or smells good?*
- TAKE SUGGESTIONS FROM SEVERAL CHILDREN.**
- TEACH:** *Products like air fresheners, perfume, cleaning products, plants and flowers, and many medicines have a sweet taste and pretty color. Many medicines look like candy. Sometimes the products in our homes can become 'Mistaken Identities'. If you don't know what something is, "Ask First". If it looks like cherry soda and it smells like cherry soda, then it must be cherry soda – right? Not always. It could be cherry scented lamp oil, or red cold medicine.*

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 and it was filled with something that looked 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.

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.

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POISON CENTER
1-800-222-1222

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

WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG

