



CALIFORNIA
POISON ACTION LINE
1-800-222-1222

Talking with Parents about Poisoning

Learning Objectives

- Identify individuals most at risk for poisoning
- State examples of common household poisons
- List strategies to prevent poisonings in the home
- Describe the appropriate response in case of poison exposure
- State the phone number of the California Poison Action Line

1) Brainstorming - What is Poisonous:

What types of things in your home can be poisonous?

Examples of poisonous products in the home:

- Medicines, vitamins, herbal products
- Household cleaning products: bleach, ammonia, oven cleaner, other cleaners
- Cosmetics and personal products: perfume, makeup, hair products and cleaner
- In the garage: automotive products, coolant pesticides, paint and cleaner
- Outside: plants

2) Discuss - Facts:

Over 50% of poison accidents occur in young children, ages 0-5 years.

- Why do you think this is?
- What have your children been into?
- Do you know anyone who has had a poisoning?

Most children get into poisonous things because they are:

- Curious and explore the world with their mouths
- Available - left around the house (even for a moment)
- Attractive - they look good
- Taste - they taste good

3) Where to store poisonous products:

- Locked up, up high, don't show children where they are kept.
- Outside in the garage out of sight.
- Ask parents about the safe places in their home (walk around the home with them if possible). Where do you store your poisonous items?

4) About the California Poison Action Line:

24 hour help, 7 days a week toll-free hotline 1-800-222-1222

We can help you with FREE advice and information if you or someone you're with has tasted, touched or breathed in something that might be harmful:

- Eye or skin irritation from toxic substances
- Inhalation of noxious fumes or vapors

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- Animal, insect, snake and spider bites
- Food or mushroom poisoning
- Drug reaction or overdose

5) Who answers the phone?

- Pharmacists
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Poison Information Providers

6) To help you, our staff needs to ask some questions

- Was it medicine, plant, insect, or some kind of household product (bring the product to the phone if possible)
- Amount involved
- When exposure occurred
- If any symptoms have occurred
- Name, age, and weight of person exposed
- Your name and phone number (so they can call you back)

7) Discuss - Tips for safety:

- Place the Poison Action Line number on or near all phones.
- Ask for child resistant containers.
- Do not store food products and household cleaners in the same cabinet.
- Always keep products in their original containers.
- Keep harmful medicines and household products out of reach and in locked cabinets.
- Never call medicine candy.
- Do not take medicine in front of children; they love to imitate adults.
- Many poisonings occur when a product is in use. Keep the product with you - don't leave it alone.

8) Closing questions?

- What was something new you learned today?
- What was something you liked about this presentation?
- What is something you can do at home to prevent poisoning?

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