

# Wisconsin Poison Center

## Poison Prevention Program

### Preschool

#### I Introduction

- a. Read the objectives.

#### II Poison Information

- a. Tell the children what a poison is:
  1. A poison is something that makes you sick or hurts you if you eat, drink, touch or smell it.
  2. Ways that poisons get in your body:
    - Mouth or swallowing a poison.
    - Nose or breathing a poison.
    - Eyes or getting a poison in the eyes.
    - Skin or getting a poison on the skin, or getting a bite or sting from an insect or animal.
  3. Explain that poisons are everywhere in their home and outside, too. For example, poisons are found in the bathroom (shampoo, medicines), the bedroom (makeup, perfume), in the kitchen (soap, cleaning products), in the backyard (plants, berries, mushrooms), in the garage (gas, weed killers), in purses (medicines, cigarettes) and in diaper bags (medicines, diaper rash cream).
  4. Explain that poisons *may* look and smell pretty, although most children think poisons look bad and taste bad.
    - Perfumes smell good and often look pretty, but they should not be tasted, or squirted in the eyes.
    - Some medicines may taste good, but taking too much medicine can make you *very* sick.
    - Some poisons may look like things that are safe to eat. (Show a bottle of pine cleaner and apple juice, or see other examples of poison look-alikes on the enclosed sheet). Emphasize that children should ask a trusted adult before they eat, drink, taste, touch or smell anything!
- b. Discuss medication safety.
  1. Amount: When a doctor gives you medicine, the doctor wants you to get better. The doctor gives you the right amount of medicine. If you take that amount, you will get better. But if you take more medicine than the doctor tells you, it can make you very sick.
  2. Kind: The doctor gives the right kind of medicine to children. Taking someone else's medication or an adult medication can make you sick.
  3. ALWAYS have a trusted adult help you take medicine. Never take someone else's medication. Only take as much medicine as a trusted adult gives you.

- c. The Poison Center
  1. The place to call if someone has been poisoned or someone has a question about poisons.
  2. National number, toll free 1-800-222-1222. The number will reach the caller's nearest poison center.
  3. Here in Wisconsin the Wisconsin Poison Center is a program of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, but we help people of any age.
- d. Mr. Yuk
  1. Mean, green face on stickers (show Mr. Yuk stickers)
    - Mr. Yuk means "No" or "Poison Stay Away."
    - With an adult at home, put Mr. Yuk stickers on things around the house that could make a child sick.
    - With an adult's permission, place a Mr. Yuk sticker on or near the phone, in case of an emergency.

### III Learning Activity Ideas

- a. Duffle Bag Presentation:
  - Fill a duffle bag with empty poison containers, as well as containers from different foods, (e.g. empty dishwashing liquid, laundry soap, medicine bottles of all kinds, spray bottles, and an empty milk container, macaroni and cheese box, cereal box).
  - Obtain two baskets (i.e. laundry baskets) and designate one to be the safe basket and attach a smiley face on that basket. Designate the second basket as the Mr. Yuk/poison basket. Place a Mr. Yuk face on that basket.
  - Allow the children to come up to the front of class, one at a time and pick a container from the duffle bag to show to their classmates.
  - Allow the students to decide if the container/product is poison or not and place it in the Mr. Yuk basket or in the smiley/safe basket.  
  
\*\*Remember to include things that children and adults forget are potentially poisonous! These include toothpaste, mouthwash, plants, berries, mushrooms, bubble bath, blowing bubbles, and nail polish remover.
- b. Poison Bingo  
Make bingo cards, using a Mr. Yuk face as the free space in the center of the card. Use pictures of cleaning products, plants, berries, medicines, etc. Bingo sheets can be downloaded from [www.wisconsinpoison.org](http://www.wisconsinpoison.org). Hand each "winner" a poison packet to take home. Remind them that the Mr. Yuk stickers should be placed on things and near/on their phone with a trusted adult. Remember that all the children should be "winners" and receive a poison packet to take home.

- c. Play “What if?”
1. Ask the children what they would do if:
    - They went to their Grandma’s house and found a pill on her counter? What would they do?
    - They found their little brother or sister playing with a spray bottle? What would they do?
    - They found a soda bottle on their Dad’s tool bench. It looks like juice. Would they drink it?
    - They are at the park and they see a bush with pretty red berries. Would they eat the berries?

#### **IV Evaluation**

At the end of the activity each student should be able to state:

1. At least one common household poison.
2. Two areas in their home where poisons may be found.
3. Never taste, touch or smell something without asking an adult first.
4. Always take medicine with a trusted adult.