

TIPS

Most accidental poisonings occur in children under six years old. This is because at this age they are very curious and try to find out about things by putting many of them in their mouths. They will also eat or drink from familiar containers regardless of the taste. Children are drawn to the pretty labels, colours and sweet smell of many substances found in the home.

General

- ✓ Store all poisonous household substances and pesticides out of reach of children in locked cupboards or on high shelves. And return them to their place immediately after use.
- ✓ If the cabinet does not have a lock, simply tie a piece of string or cord around the two nearest knobs or handles.
- ✓ Never leave a product out in the open. If you are using it and need to answer the telephone or door, take it or the child with you.
- ✓ Take time to teach children about

poisonous substances.



Household and Chemical Products

- ✓ Store all products in their original, labeled containers.
- ✓ Food containers such as babies' cups, soda bottles, water bottles and jugs **should not** be used to store household cleaners and chemical products.
- ✓ Store food and household and chemical products in separate areas. Many poisonous products look like and come in containers similar to drinks or food.
- ✓ Special care should be taken when poisons for ants, mice and rats are used around the home.
- ✓ Safely dispose of old or out dated products and their containers.



Medicines

- ✓ Keep medicine out of sight, locked up and out of reach of children.
- ✓ Make sure that all medicines are in their original labeled containers.
- ✓ Avoid taking medicines in front of children. Young children often imitate "grown-ups".
- ✓ DON'T call medicines candy. Some medicines and candy look-a-like and children cannot tell the difference.
- ✓ Vitamins are also medicines. Vitamins with iron can be especially poisonous.
- ✓ Be aware of medicines visitors may bring into the home.



Pesticides

- ✓ Pesticides can be absorbed through the skin and can be extremely toxic. Keep children from plants that have recently been sprayed with weed killer, bug killer and fertilizer.



Plants

- ✓ Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets.
- ✓ Teach children not to put leaves and berries growing in the yard in their mouths.



Periwinkle

Keep the telephone number CARPIN and doctor on or near your telephone.



Contact the Regional Nerve Center:
Address: University of Technology, Jamaica
237 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6, Jamaica
Toll free: 1-888-POISONS (7647667)
Telephone: (876) 927-1680-8 ext 2300
Or 977-7777
Cell: (876) 323-8907 (9)
Fax: (876) 927-1699
e-mail: carpin@utech.edu.jm

ADAPTED from
<http://www.aapcc.org/children.htm>

POISON PREVENTION TIPS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE



