

Waterloo Fire Rescue Fire PALS Injury Prevention Program

Accidental Poisoning Prevention

Content courtesy of Iowa Poison Control Center

Grades K – 5

To educate the students on the dangers of household poisons.

Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this unit, 100% of the students will be able to:

1. verbalize what a poison is
2. identify the four forms of poison
3. describe ways to protect younger children from accidental poisonings

Time Element

Knowledge/Attitude: 15 minutes

Activity/Skill: 10 minutes

Introduction/Content: 15 minutes

Children under six years of age are most often the victims of accidental poisonings. By being able to identify a number of common but potentially harmful products along with introducing a few basic rules, the number of accidental poisonings may go down.

Introduce yourself and explain that you are here to teach poison safety, you want the children to stay healthy and safe, and that they can help little brothers and sisters stay healthy and safe from poisons also.

For students in kindergarten and preschool, use the “Spike’s Poison Prevention Adventure” and lesson plan. For students in 1st-5th grade show the “Poison Adventure Video.” Use the following lesson plan after viewing the video. Depending on your timeline adapt the lesson to meet the learners’ needs.

I. Ask the children if they know what a poison is:

- a. Define a poison. A substance that may injure tissues and organs in their body.
- b. Poison may come in a pretty box, jar or bottle.
- c. Poison may taste good.
- d. Poisons are found anywhere in the house.

- e. Poison may look like a “safe” product.
- f. Show ways people get poisoned:
 - 1. Mouth (swallowing a poison)
 - 2. Nose (breathing a poison)
 - 3. Eyes (getting poison in eye)
 - 4. Skin (getting poison on their skin)

II. Define the four forms of Poison:

- a. Explain the four forms and how each is dangerous.
 - 1. solids (powder, granules, plants, pills)
 - 2. liquids (clear like water or colored; thick or runny)
 - 3. sprays (aerosols or pump spray)
 - 4. invisibles (smoke, carbon monoxide, gases/fumes)

b. For grades 2nd-5th:

Before the lesson starts, put the words solids, liquids, sprays and invisibles on the board. Show the students examples of the various types of poisons. Use clean, empty bottles; never use items that still contain poisonous or hazardous materials. For example, hold up an empty bottle of kerosene and ask for a volunteer to name what the poison is and what form it is. Have the student who answered the question remain standing. Continue to show various poisons and ask questions. Show the different types of poisons until half of the class is standing. Say, “53 percent of poison exposures occur in children under the age of six. 50 percent of you are standing in the class right now. Half of all poison exposure occur in young children that is why we must be diligent in making sure that younger siblings and friends are not exposed to poisons.”

- c. When discussing accidental poisoning with older students during babysitting lesson, say “Poisons are all around us, and because young children are so curious, we need to take our job of babysitting and watching younger children very seriously and always know at all times what the young children in our care are doing.”

Statistic: The most common forms of poison exposure for children under the age of six are cosmetics and personal care products (13.3%), cleaning substances (10.7%), analgesics (7.6%) and plants (6.9%).”

- d. Help the students make a list on the chalkboard of where harmful substances should be stored in the home and school.

Journal:

Have the students listen to the song, ‘Hazardous Materials’ track 2 on the CD *Safety songs for kids* while they write in their journals during the last couple of minutes of class.

Reinforcing Activities

Show look-alike bottles of various products and ask them what it looks like.

Have the students identify possible poisons when they go through their smoke house class.

Home / School Connection

Have students and parents visit Firepals.com for more information and interactive game on poisoning prevention.

Have the students complete the letter home to their parents/guardians explaining the dangers of household poisons.

Media needed: look alike bottles of various products

Reference: Iowa Poison Control Center, St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center/ Iowa Health Systems, Sioux City, Iowa, and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa.