

# POISON PREVENTION ACTIVITIES SUGGESTION LIST

## Home Safety Rules

1. Poisonous items should be kept out of the reach of young children — above an adult's shoulder height.
2. Remember: Medicines are NOT candy!
3. When I learn about poisonous items found in the house, I will share this information with my family. My home will be safe!



### Day 1

Explain to your students the purpose of the week's activities is to educate them on many common poisons found in their homes.

Introduce your class to the **Home Safety Rules**.

Test your students' current poison prevention knowledge by having them answer true or false to the questions found on the Poison Prevention Pre-Quiz (Page 4). (See Answer Key, Page 16.)

Use the Poison Prevention Discussion Sheet (Page 5) to teach your students about the many poisonous items that can be found in their homes. Stress that these items are supposed to be stored above an adult's shoulder height. Reinforce the use of the local Poison Control Center hotline for poisoning emergencies: 1-800-222-1222.

Discuss each of the various poisonous home hazards individually, giving each student a copy of the Poisonous Home Hazards (Page 6) to give to their family. Also send home a copy of the More Information Sheet (page 7) for parents and children to learn more together about poison prevention on the Internet.

### Day 2

Have your students stand, raise their right hands, and recite the Home Safety Rules.

Ask them to color the Poison Patrol Badge (Page 8) and either wear it or glue it to a notebook or folder as a reminder of the week's activities and poison prevention phone number.

Distribute the Poison Prevention Activity Sheet (Page 9) and inform your students you want to make sure they remember the poisonous hazards discussed on Day 1. Give them clues, using the list below, and have them put a check where they see that item on the activity sheet.

- This is the paper attached to an item that tells what the product contains. (LABEL)
- This is what your parents might give you if you are sick. (MEDICINE)
- These may get rid of dirt, but they also contain chemicals that may be poisonous. (CLEANING PRODUCTS)
- These may be beautiful and smell good, but could be poisonous if eaten. (PLANTS AND FLOWERS)
- These are things adults sometimes wear to look or smell nice, but they could be dangerous for small children. (COSMETICS AND COLOGNES)
- These kill bugs, but may also contain poisons. (PESTICIDES)
- Your parents may use this to touch up a wall, but it can be deadly. (PAINT)

### Day 3

Have your students stand, raise their right hands, and recite the Home Safety Rules.

Explain to your students once they learn to stay away from dangerous items in their homes, they can be a big help to their parents by making sure that younger brothers and sisters stay away from these products, too.

Distribute the Poison Patrol Home Checklist (Page 10) and discuss the proper safety measures to be taken in each room of the house. Have your students take this list home to do with their parents and complete it, returning the completed worksheet by Day 5.

Next ask the youngsters to create a poster on the Keep Out of the Reach of Children Poster (Page 11), encouraging adults to keep poisonous materials in a safe place, away from little ones and absolutely above an adult's shoulder height — never under the sink or in kitchen cabinets toddlers can get into.

### Day 4

Have your students stand, raise their right hands, and recite the Home Safety Rules.

Distribute the Poisons in the Home Word Search (Page 12) and give your students 10 minutes to find and circle the hidden poisons in the home. (See Answer Key, Page 16.)

Next have them complete the Poisons Word Scramble (Page 13) by using the clues to help them unscramble the words.

Engage your students in a discussion on poisonous household products with the following questions.

- Name three poisonous household products. (Bleach, all-purpose cleaner, dishwashing detergent)
- Where should poisonous household products be stored? (In cabinets above an adult's shoulder height)
- Should a child take medication without a parent's guidance? (Never, only under adult supervision)
- When playing with friends, would it be harmful to eat colorful pills in the medicine cabinet? (Yes, children should never take any medicine unless it's given to them by an adult they know and trust.)
- If a poisoning occurs in their home, does anyone know the emergency poison control phone number? (1-800-222-1222) For additional stickers and local poison center materials, please call this number and ask for the educator.

### Day 5

Have your students stand, raise their right hands, and recite the Home Safety Rules.

Ask them to fill in the phone number on the Poison Control Sticker (Page 14) and take it home to post on the refrigerator door. Reinforce that this number is the emergency information hotline for the Poison Control Center.

Next, to help students understand the importance of poison prevention in the home, ask them to role-play the situations on the Role-Play Activity Sheet (Page 15). How would they react? Discuss their performances when everyone is done.

Have your students complete the Poison Prevention Post-Quiz (Page 4) as a review of all they learned this week. (Answer Key, Page 16.)

Please complete the Teacher Survey (Page 17) and fax to: 1-888-599-3750.

# POISON PREVENTION DISCUSSION SHEET

Directions: Discuss the following safety tips as a group.

Ask students: "What does home safety mean?" Allow responses, which may include keeping out of danger or preventing injuries in the home.

Write the words "Poison Prevention" on the board or a large piece of paper where all can see. Ask students for the definition of "poisonous" and to name the different poisonous items found in their homes. Encourage them to use their thinking skills by imagining every room in their home: kitchen, bathroom, garage, living room. Answers could include pesticides (rat poison or bug spray), medicine, household cleaners, paint, gasoline, soap, plants and flowers, fertilizer, cosmetics, colognes, Bleach, and alcohol.

Inform them you are going to share some safety tips on storing poisonous substances they can take home to their parents and younger brothers and sisters.

## STORAGE AREAS

**CABINETS:** What is stored in the cabinet under the sink? Responses may include: detergents, oven cleaner, and Bleach. What can be dangerous about these items? Explain detergents and other cleaners contain harmful chemicals. Inform your students there are two ways to keep cabinets safe. Their parents should install child-resistant latches on the cabinets and they should store all dangerous products out of children's reach. Emphasize that this means above an adult's shoulder height.

**CONTAINERS:** It is important to store all products in their original containers. Should you mix household chemicals with other cleaners? (No.) Why not? (They can create deadly poisonous gases.)

**CHEMICALS:** Should harmful products be stored next to food or above the stove? (No.) Why not? (Chemicals can leak or fall into the food, and some flammable chemicals can start fires when stored near heat.)

**CUPBOARDS:** Should you throw away cans that have dents, holes, rust, bulges, or leaks? (Yes.) Why? (They, too, can be poisonous.)

## POISONOUS HOME HAZARDS

Directions: Discuss each of the following poisonous home hazards.  
Can you think of any other dangerous products?

**LABEL:** A label is printed on the front of a container that tells you what the product contains. Ask your students what types of labels they have seen. Explain that they should not touch any jar or bottle that has no label because it may contain dangerous material that could hurt them.

**MEDICINE:** Medicine is something a doctor gives to people who are ill. It is NOT candy, even though many medicines look as though they are. No one should ever take another person's medicine. Children should never take medicine unless it is given to them by an adult they know and trust.

**CLEANING PRODUCTS:** Explain cleaning products are good only when they are used to clean. They should never be played with. They can be POISONOUS! Cleaners should NEVER go in or near the mouth. All cleaning products should be locked up in high cabinets, never where little brothers or sisters can reach them.

**PLANTS AND FLOWERS:** Even though many plants and flowers are beautiful to look at, some of them are poisonous. Plants should never be eaten or left where babies can nibble on them.

**COSMETICS AND COLOGNES:** Adults may use these to help them look and smell good; however, they should always be kept out of the reach of small children, who could use them improperly and get sick or hurt.

**PESTICIDES:** These are used to kill bugs inside and outside of the house. Almost all are poisonous and children should never touch or play with them. Ask your students to tell you the names of some of the pesticides they have seen in their homes.

**CHEMICALS:** These include all types of products, mostly found in the garage or storage areas: gasoline, antifreeze, oil, paint, turpentine, kerosene, lighter fluid. All of these items are highly toxic (poisonous) if smelled, touched, or put in the mouth. They should be kept in their original containers that have warning labels and never transferred to unmarked jars or cans.

**KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE!  
LOCK POISONOUS MATERIALS ABOVE  
ADULT SHOULDER HEIGHT!**