

Iowa Poison Control Center – Preschool/Daycare Curriculum Guide

This curriculum guide is intended as a flexible resource to support instruction. Teachers are encouraged to use the sections and materials that best meet the needs of their students and teaching goals.

Objective:

Preschool/daycare children will learn what poisons are, why they can be dangerous, safe habits to prevent poisoning, and what to do in case of poisoning.

1. Welcome & Introduction

- Introduce yourself and explain: *“Today we are going to learn about poison.”*
 - *Ask children if they know what a poison is.*

2. What is a Poison?

- Say: *“A poison is something that makes you sick or hurts you if you eat, drink, touch, or smell it.”*
 - Poisons can get into your body in different ways.
 - Through your mouth if you eat/drink/swallow a poison.
 - Through your nose if you breath in a poison.
 - Through your eyes.
 - Through your skin if you touch a poison or if you get a bite or sting from an insect or animal.
- Poisons are everywhere. They can be inside and outside. Poison can be found in the bathroom (soap/shampoo/medicine), kitchen (cleaning products), garage (gasoline, weed killers), yard (berries from trees, plans, mushrooms), and even in diaper bags (diaper cream, medications).
- A lot of poisons can smell good and even look pretty, but they can make you very sick.
- Some poisons might even look like things that are safe to eat.
 - *Show and review Candy vs. Medicine poster.*
- Reinforce: *“Always ask a grown-up.”*

3. Safety Rules

Teach three simple rules:

- **Don't touch** bottles, sprays, or medicine without a grown-up.
- **Always ask first** before eating or drinking something new.
- **Tell a grown up right away** if you eat, drink, or touch something you should not have.

4. Play “What If?”

Ask children what they would do if:

- They went to Grandma's house and found a pill on her counter.
- They saw their little brother or sister playing with a spray bottle.
- They found a soda bottle on Dad's tool bench that looked like juice.
- They were at the park and saw a bush with pretty red berries.

5. What is a Poison Center?

- The place to call if someone has been poisoned or has a question about poisons.
- Free phone number: **1-800-222-1222**. Nurses and pharmacists answer the phone.
- We help people of all ages if there is a poison emergency.

6. Wrap-Up

- Teach children the **Poison Help Number: 1-800-222-1222** (sing or clap the numbers).
- Each child will take a magnet home to place on their refrigerator.

Materials Needed:

- Medicine vs Candy Poster: *Available for free download or order at iowapoisson.org.*

Take-Home for Parents:

- Refrigerator magnet. *Available to order for free at iowapoisson.org.*

Evaluation

Teachers: Please provide your feedback by scanning the QR Code below.

Iowa Poison Control Center -
Poison Safety Curriculum
Evaluation

