

# Medication Safety



Safe Storage, Safe Dosing, Safe Kids

# Why is it important?



**Every minute**

a parent or caregiver calls a  
poison control center about  
a medication poisoning

**More than 67,000 children**

are seen in emergency  
departments for  
medication poisoning

**12,390 children**

are hospitalized each year  
for medication poisoning

It's **preventable**

# What can we do?

- Store medicines safely
- Give medicines safely
- Get rid of expired or unused medicines safely
- Talk to family and friends about medication safety



# Store medicines safely

- Keep medicines and vitamins up and away and out of sight, where children can't see or reach them
- Put medicines up and away after *every* use



# Store medicines safely

- Store medicine in original container
- Buy medicine in child-resistant packaging when available and close it tightly after each use



# What is medicine?

- Adult medicines and vitamins
- Children's medicines and vitamins
- Eye drops
- Diaper rash remedies

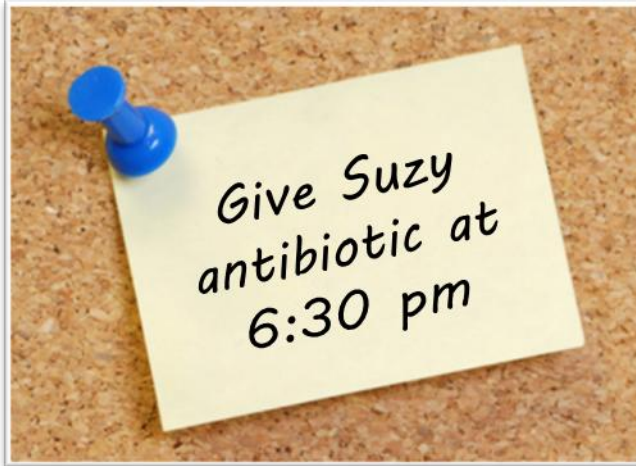


# Where is your medicine?



- In your purse or backpack?
- On a table or nightstand?
- On kitchen or bathroom counters?
- In low cabinets or drawers?

# Set reminders





# Give medicines safely

- Read and follow the label
  - Know the active ingredients in your child's medicine
  - Don't give your child more than one medicine with the same active ingredient
  - Read the warnings, know the side effects, and understand when to stop taking the medicine and call a doctor



# Give medicines safely

- Check the dosing
  - Make sure you give the right dose at the right time
  - When measuring liquid medicine, use the dosing device that comes with the medicine you are giving



# Avoid double dosing

- Write down your child's medicine schedule:
  - Child's name
  - Date and time medicine should be given
  - Amount of medicine that should be given
  - If the scheduled dose was given

**MEDICINE SCHEDULE**



- Keep medicines up and away and out of sight.
- When measuring liquid medicine, use the dosing device that comes with the medicine.
- If you are depending on someone else to give your child medicine, write clear instructions about what to give, when to give it and how much to give.
- Check the "Medicine Given" box after the child has taken the medicine as scheduled.

Child's Name	Date	Time	Medicine	Amount	Medicine Given?
Jack	Mon. 3/15	7:00 AM	Tylenol	2.5 mL	✓

*Use this tool to make sure children get the right dose of the right medicine at the right time.*

**PUT THE POISON CONTROL CENTER NUMBER INTO YOUR PHONE: 1-800-222-1222**






# Getting help

**If you have questions about  
your child's medicine, call the:**

Child's Doctor

Pharmacist

Poison Control Center  
1-800-222-1222

# Get rid of medicines safely

- Remove personal information and instructions from the medicine bottle or package
- Put medicine into a sealable plastic bag
- Add water to dissolve solid medicines like pills, tablets and capsules
- Add kitty litter, sawdust or coffee grounds to the plastic bag

# Take-back program

- Take medicines that are out of date and medicines you don't use any more to a community take-back program
- Flyers with local community take-back programs in multiple counties are available at the information table

# Poison control centers

**Know the number – put it in your home and cell phones**

- 1-800-222-1222

**When can you call the poison center?**

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- It's free and confidential

**Who answers the poison center number?**

- Nurses, pharmacists, doctors and other poison experts

# Poison control centers

## When should you call the poison center?

- If you have questions about giving my child medicine
- If your child was given the wrong amount of medicine
- If your child has taken medicine that he or she was not supposed to

## When should you call 911?

- If your child stops breathing
- If your child collapses
- If your child has a seizure



Source: <http://www.aapcc.org>



# Share the information

- Talk to caregivers and babysitters about storing and giving your child medicines safely
- Ask guests and family members to keep their medicine up and away when they are visiting
- Give a copy of your child's medicine schedule to caregivers who will be giving your child medicine
- Know the Poison Control Center phone number: **1-800-222-1222**



# Thank you!



For more information, contact:

- **Bonnie McDougale, Community Educator**  
**Florida Poison Information Center Tampa**  
**813-844-7981 or [BMcDougale@tgh.org](mailto:BMcDougale@tgh.org)**
- **Jean Shoemaker, Safe Kids Coordinator**  
**All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg**  
**727-767-8581**

**SAFE**  
**K:DS**  
**WORLDWIDE™**