

### ⚠️ WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Children under 5 years of age are the group most likely to have an accidental poisoning and the main reason is a child's normal growth and development. As children master the ability to make a hand-to-mouth movement, tasting items becomes an easy way to learn about objects. As children master the ability to pull up and take a few steps, they find many household items. This age group has not learned to read warning labels, so it's up to adults to keep homes as safe as possible.<sup>1</sup>

In the 2009 Annual Report, Florida's Poison Control Centers noted 52,177 poisoning cases in children aged 5 years and younger.



### ❓ HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

Common poisoning situations involve a child who is not supervised closely when a poison is within reach. High risk times for poisoning are at mealtimes or when visitors enter the home, causing distractions and bringing in potentially hazardous items. Poisonous substances stored in drink bottles are confusing to a child, especially when the product colors are similar (for instance, liquid cleaners look like sports drinks).<sup>2</sup>

### ✅ PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The most common substances involved in children's poisoning are:

- Medications
- Cleaners
- Cosmetics and personal care products
- Foreign bodies (coins, batteries, magnets)<sup>3</sup>
- Plants, berries and mushrooms

#### Prevention Strategies

1. Put child-resistant latches on cabinets containing non-food products.
2. Store medications in a locked cabinet.
3. Store poisons in cabinets away from food or drinks.
4. Keep products in their original containers, not stored in food containers.
5. Remove poisonous house and yard plants.
6. Program the poison control center hotline number 1-800-222-1222 to be ready in case of emergencies or questions.

### 🔍 RESOURCES

1. Safe Kids Poisoning Fact Sheet  
<http://www.safekids.org/fact-sheet/poisoning-safety-fact-sheet-2015-pdf>
2. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Poison Prevention  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Poison-Prevention-Information-Center/>
3. The Battery Controlled Safety Campaign  
<http://thebatterycontrolled.com/>

**For any poisoning or medicine mistake, call your poison control center immediately at 1-800-222-1222.**

Calls are answered by doctors, nurses and pharmacists, and are quick, free and confidential. [www.floridapoisoncontrol.org](http://www.floridapoisoncontrol.org)