Keeping Children Safe From Injuries in Early Care and Education Settings

Medication Safety and Poison Prevention
Welcome

- Date
- Location
- Name
Learning Objectives

• Explain why children are at risk for medication poisonings
• Identify ways to prevent poisonings in early care and education settings
• Learn what to do when a poisoning has occurred or is suspected in early education and child care settings
Today’s presentation is focused on medication safety

Check state regulations around medication administration requirements for early care and education providers

Medication Administration trainings are available
“If a disease were killing our children in the proportions that injuries are, people would be outraged and demand that this killer be stopped.”

C. Everett Koop, MD
Former US Surgeon General
Injury Deaths Compared to Other Leading Causes of Death
(Ages 1–44, United States, 2013)
The #1 Killer of Children in the United States

For every 1 child who dies from injury there are...

- 25 hospitalizations
- 925 treated in ERs
- Many more treated in doctors’ offices
Injuries Among Children

• Leading cause of death and disability
  – 10% of injuries in preschoolers happen in early care and education settings
• Not accidents
  – Preventable and predictable
Imagine
Caring for Our Children Standards

- **Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards—Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs (CFOC)**
- 3rd edition
- Available at [http://cfoc.nrckids.org](http://cfoc.nrckids.org) (free download and purchase options)
Injuries

- Pediatric first aid kit
- Pediatric CPR and first aid training
- Communication device for emergencies (911)
- Document and notify parents and state licensing agency
- Report serious injuries to appropriate authorities
The Early Care and Education Provider

- Relationship with family and child
- Model safety for children and families
THE PROBLEM
How Busy Is Poison Control?

Of the 1.34 MILLION calls made to Poison Control Centers for children, what percentage were medicine related?

A. 10%
B. 29%
C. 33%
D. 49%
How Busy Are Poison Control Centers?

- A. 10%
- B. 29%
- C. 33%
- D. 49%
On average, how many young children are treated in the emergency department every day?

A. 10
B. 50
C. 100
D. >150
Medication Safety

Every minute of every day, a poison control center answers a call about a young child getting into medicine.

Nearly 500,000 calls per year.

In 2012, more than 64,000 kids were treated in an emergency room for medicine poisoning.

That’s one child every 8 minutes.

A. 10
B. 50
C. 100
D. >150
The Facts: Who

Greater than 50% of calls for poisonings were for what age group?

A. 0–12 months
B. 1–2 years
C. 3–4 years
D. 4–5 years
High Risk: What Age?

A. 0–12 months
B. 1–2 years
C. 3–4 years
D. 4–5 years
Whose Medicine?

Of the medication poisonings, what percentage of the medicine belonged to someone the child knew?

A. 10%
B. 20%
C. 50%
D. >75%
Children can get into early care and education providers’ medications, too!

A. 10%  
B. 20%  
C. 50%  
D. >75%
WHY ARE CHILDREN AT RISK FOR POISONINGS?
Children and Medication Risk

Developmental
• Curious explorers
• Everything goes in mouth

Physical
• Medication weight based
• One pill can kill
Look-a-Like Medications

- Children don’t know difference between pills and candy
- Provider should be familiar with look-a-like medications and packaging
Mistaken Identity
Mistaken Identity
Mistaken Identity

Which Is Medicine?
Which Is Candy?

MEDICINE

CANDY

MEDICINE

CANDY
What Children Are Getting Into

- Younger than age 1: Diaper care/rash products
- Ages 1–4: Ibuprofen, vitamins, and diaper care/rash products
Methods of Poisoning

- Ingestion (eating or drinking) – ~ 85% of poisonings
- Absorption (skin or eyes)
- Inhalation (breathing)
- Animal and insect bites
- Injection (skin puncture)
Most Serious Household Poisons

- Drain openers and toilet bowl cleaners (chemical burns)
- Nail glue removers (cyanide poisoning)
- Windshield washer solution (blindness and death)
- Carbon monoxide (death)
Latest Trends

- Laundry packets
- Liquid nicotine
- Button batteries
Medications to Avoid

• Aspirin: NOT FOR CHILDREN
• Cough and cold medications
  – Side effects
  – Don’t work in young children
• Honey (younger than age 1)
• Teething medications
• Homeopathic or herbal

Risk: Combination medication
Labels

- Child’s name
- Original label
  - Pharmacy name
  - Dose and instructions
- Over-the-counter medications
  - Original containers
  - Add child’s name
CHILD-RESISTANT PACKAGING
Child Safety Caps

- Prevent/delay access: Layer of protection
- Re-secure after use
- Caps are NOT childproof
  - They are child resistant
Flow Restrictors

- Used with child safety caps
  - Layer of protection
- Added to necks of liquid medication
- Limits liquid escape
STORAGE
Medication: Where Children Find It

Where are children finding medicine?

- 27% ground or misplaced
- 20% purse/bag/wallet
- 20% counter/dresser/table/nightstand
- 15% pillbox or bag of pills
- 12% other (known)
- 6% cabinet/drawer

(2011 emergency room visits; of the 14% of cases known.)
Storage: Up and Away

- In original container
- In designated area
  - Out of reach or locked/secure (except emergency medications)
  - Home: Empty medicine cabinets
  - NO cubby or diaper bag
- Risk: Staff and guest medications
  - Purses and diaper bags
- Visit [http://upandaway.org](http://upandaway.org) for more information
Disposal

- Preferred: Return to parent
  - Document
- Do not dispose in sink or toilet
  - Local pharmacy
  - Community medication disposal
  - Trash disposal (if necessary)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE
ALL early care and education settings should have emergency protocols in place in the event of medication poisoning.
Policy and Procedure

- Permission and documentation (log)
- Giving medications
- Medication error or incident
- Disposal
- Medication policy given to ALL parents
The Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings is available from the Healthy Futures Website as a free online course!

www.healthychildcare.org/HealthyFutures.html
SUPERVISION
Adult Supervision = #1 Prevention

• ALL medication poisonings are PREVENTABLE
• Poisonings can occur in all settings
  – Home
  – Family child care settings
  – Early care and education centers
Supervision

- Most poisonings occur when children are unsupervised
- Never turn back to child taking medication
TEACHING KIDS
Teaching Kids

• An adult always gives medicine
• Medicine is not candy
• Child-free zone
  – Cabinets: Medicine, cleaning cabinet, kitchen, and bathroom
  – Garage
• Don’t share medicine
• Don’t know what it is?
  – Don’t smell, taste, or touch
Role Play

• For preschool-age children
• Role play
  – What to do when you find a pill or medicine on the floor
SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED POISONING
Poison Control Center

- 1-800-222-1222
  - SAVE ON YOUR PHONE
- Free
- Confidential
- 24/7
- Multilingual
- Experts
Poison Control Center

• Call: Any potential poisoning
• Follow and document advice
• Be prepared to give information
  – Age and gender
  – Estimated amount
  – Time since ingestion or exposure
  – Substance
  – Child’s condition
What If?

- Swallowed
  - Call Poison Control Center **FIRST**
  - Do not try home remedies
  - **NEVER** try to make someone throw up

- Eyes
  - Rinse eyes with running water + call
What If?

- **Skin**
  - Remove any clothing that poison touched + rinse skin with running water + call

- **Inhaled**
  - Provide fresh air right away + call
Don’t Forget the Invisible Poison

- Carbon monoxide – invisible, tasteless, odorless gas
- Faulty furnace or heater
- Headache, nausea, and drowsiness
- Check detectors monthly, batteries yearly
- Alarm - go outside and call 911
Summary

• Curious children = Risk for poisoning
• Never call medicine “candy”
• Keep medicines in original containers
• Keep medicines locked up
• Always read label
• Teach children to ask an adult before tasting anything
• 1-800-222-1222: Save this number!
Resources

• Safe Kids Worldwide: [http://www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
• Up and Away and Out of Sight: [http://www.upandaway.org](http://www.upandaway.org)
• National Capital Poison Center: [http://www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org)
• Quills Up, Stay Away! [http://www.poison.org/spike](http://www.poison.org/spike)
• Online AAP Course—Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care: [http://www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org)
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• The recommendations in this curriculum do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate.
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