

Poisoning Fact Sheet



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POISONING



Accidental poisoning can occur to your little one when they unintentionally come into contact with a substance that can cause harm to the body. Most incidents occur in children aged one to three years, as this is a time of exploration and learning.

WHAT IS POISONING?

Poison is classified as a substance capable of causing illness or death when absorbed. Many products in the average Australian household can be potentially harmful to our little ones including:



- Medications and drugs



- Cleaning items



- Cosmetics



- Various household items including garden pesticides, glue, batteries, petrol, alcohol and industrial chemicals



- Poisonous plants



- Bites and stings from poisonous animals

Poisons can be inhaled, spilt on the skin, swallowed, splashed in the eye, ear or injected.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Common symptoms of poisoning include:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Drowsiness
- Irritation to the skin or eyes
- Burns or damage to the skin, inside of the mouth or throat

Toxic poisons sometimes can cause severe symptoms including seizures, difficulty breathing, allergic reactions or anaphylaxis, loss of consciousness, or death.

IF YOU EXPECT YOUR CHILD TO BE POISONED YOU SHOULD:

- Follow DRSABCD
- Immediately call the Poisons Information line 13 11 26 immediately (open 24/7)
- If possible keep the container and estimate how much was consumed
- If the child becomes unconscious, experiences a seizure, develops anaphylaxis or has trouble breathing call 000, provide the appropriate first aid treatment and await ambulance arrival.

PLEASE DO NOT:

- Do not induce vomiting if they have swallowed the substance
- Do not wait for the child to develop symptoms, call Poisons Information immediately.
- Do not call 000 before calling the poisons information line unless your child is showing severe symptoms

REFERENCES

- www.austin.org.au
- www.rch.org.au
- www.health.vic.gov.au