

Poison Safety

Set up the Velcro board with the different poison look-alikes. Also set up the container look-alikes in front on the table.

- *Ask...*
 - What is a poison?
- *Say...*
 - A poison is a substance that can make you ill if you eat it, inhale it, or get it on your body.
 - Different poisons do different things to people.
- *Ask...*
 - What color is a poison?
 - Can poisons be red, green, white, or invisible?
- *Say...*
 - Poisons can be many colors.
 - They can be liquids, solids or gases.
 - Sometimes they can look and taste good.

Direct their attention the poison jars and begin discussion about look alike

- *Say...*
 - Today we are going to talk about poisons that you might find in your house that look like things that are not poisonous.
 - I have some jars here. Inside one of these jars is a poison, inside the other is something that looks similar but is not a poison.
 - Let's take a vote.
- *Ask...*
 - How many of you want to eat/drink what is in this first jar?
 - *Hold up one of the poison jars.*
 - How many of you want to eat/drink what is in this jar?
 - *Hold up the other jar that looks like the first.*

Tell them which one is the poison and which is the look alike.

Point out how easy it is to get confused if we don't pay close attention around poisons.

Can do this with 3 or 4 sets of jars usually picking a couple of different liquids, a powder, a pill type poison and vitamins too.

- *Say...*
 - Most of the people pick the vitamins as the safe thing to eat.
 - Vitamins with iron are the most common cause of young children being poisoned.
 - Vitamins like all medicines are good for us if we take the right amount at the right times but that they can become poison to us if we take too many or if we take them when we don't need them.

Tell a couple of stories about people that you know who have been poisoned and how the poisoning could have been prevented.

- Some of the safety tips that should be stressed are:
 - Keep poisons up out of reach of children.
 - Lock up medicines in a medicine cabinet.
 - Don't put anything in your mouth if you don't know what it is.
 - Keep things in their original container.
 - Don't be distracted while using poisons.
 - Get help immediately.

- Say...
 - We have been looking at poisons that look alike but we also have containers that look alike that sometimes get us into trouble.

Pick up each pair of containers and tell how they look alike and the problems that could come from getting them confused.

- ***Ask...***
 - What should a person who has been poisoned do?
- ***Say...***
 - Get help right away.
 - Tell an adult if there is one around.
 - If someone has collapsed or is not breathing, call 911 right away.
 - Be sure to take the poison container with you to the hospital.
 - Make sure you have the Poison Control Center phone number handy.
 - The national phone number is easy to remember and should be learned by each of you.
 - 1-800-222-1222
 - This phone number is good no matter where you are in the United States.
 - It will direct your call to the nearest poison center.

Can end with some of the stories from the audience about their poisonings and then let them take a closer look at the poison board before they leave.

If doing this program for an older audience, pass the jars out around the room and have them try to guess the contents with out shaking or opening the jars.