

Poisoning

What you should know...

Children are naturally curious and explore their surroundings by placing things in their mouths, because of this they are at risk for being poisoned.



In 2006 in Miami-Dade County, poisoning caused 473 visits to the Emergency Department and 59 hospitalizations among children under 6

- Children under 6 are at the greatest risk for poisoning
- Nearly 3/4 of these poisonings were due to medications
- Over 1/4 of these poisonings were caused by household cleaners, gasoline and pest control substances

Turn page over for prevention tips

Data from Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System,
Unintentional Poisonings in Children 0-6; 2006



Tips To Prevent Poisoning

- Closely supervise children when cleaning or using other toxic substances
- Store poisonous products in their original containers; never put them in food or drink containers
- Install safety latches on cabinets to lock up harmful products; keep them out of sight and reach of children
- Keep purses out of reach of children including those belonging to visitors
- Store all medicines in containers with safety caps and throw away unused medication
- Never call medicines candy. Kids may want to eat them in large amounts like candy
- To ensure proper dosage, check the label each time you give a child medicine
- Test carbon monoxide and smoke alarms every month
- Keep the Poison Control Center's number (1-800-222-1222) next to the telephone for information or emergencies

Resources for Poisoning Prevention

Florida Poison Information Center Miami

1-800-222-1222; www.miamipoison.org

Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Miami

(305) 243-3928; www.injuryfree.org

American Academy of Pediatrics: www.aap.org

