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# Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Boone and Story County  
Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN BSN

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## Poison Prevention Week March 21-27, 2021



More than 2 million poisonings are reported each year to the Nation's poison control centers. According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, 93% of poisonings happen at home, and 45% of poisonings involve children under the age of 6. Usually these poisonings result in mild or no symptoms, but there is potential for severe injury or even death.

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/>

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by BooSt.

The top 4 reported reasons why children are accidentally poison are:

- **Poisons are not stored properly.** Commonly used products left in the open where they can be seen is the number one reason children get poisoned. Purses or diaper bags sitting on the floor, medications, or cleaning products left unattended for "just one second," can all lead to poisonings.
- **Children are curious.** Children are naturally curious about the taste, smell and textures of products. Children may be interested in the mechanics of a spray container. By swallowing, smelling or spraying a product children learn more about it. By smelling, touching, and tasting, they learn about the world. Brightly colored liquids spray containers, pills, leafy or flowering plants attract children.
- **Children think a poison is something other than a poison.** Many poisons look or taste similar to other things. Medicine tablets look and can taste like candy. Antifreeze tastes sweet. Red mouthwash looks like fruit punch.
- **Children imitate the behavior of adults.** Children like to copy what their parents or other adults do, such as taking medication, drinking colored liquids, and spraying chemicals.

To prevent poisoning keep all poisons and medications stored safely **inaccessible to children**. If you think someone has been poisoned, the Iowa Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Post the Poison Control # 1-800-222-1222 for all staff and parents to see and add the Poison Control number to your cell phone contacts. To order free items from the Iowa Poison Control Center go to <https://www.iowapoin.org/order-material/>

## COVID-19 Resources

Iowa Department of Human Services

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/COVID19>

Healthy Child Care Iowa

<https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

Child Care Resource and Referral

<https://iowaccrr.org/providers/links/resources2020/>