

Accidental ingestion of medicines or any dangerous substance

Introduction

Medicines and dangerous liquids can be very tempting to children, they look like sweets or juice and children do not know the difference, therefore it is up to you to protect your children from swallowing them.

Some do's and don'ts

- Do keep medicines and dangerous substances in locked cupboards
- Do keep these high above work surfaces where children can not reach them by stretching or climbing
- Do keep medicines out of sight
- Do not store dangerous fluids, e.g. bleach, petrol, acid etc. in pop bottles or another bottle that is marked with the incorrect label
- Do not remove original labels you may get confused what is in the bottle

What to do if your child swallows a dangerous substance

1. Find out, what has been swallowed, how much and the time it was swallowed.
2. Read the instructions on the label carefully to determine if the substance is dangerous – if it is, seek medical help immediately.
3. Seek medical help immediately if unsure as to whether the substance is dangerous.
4. Do not make your child vomit.

Remember

1. Do not delay in seeking medical help.
2. Take the container and a sample of what has been ingested with you to the hospital or doctor.

Once in the Emergency Department the medical staff will decide the appropriate treatment.

To help decide the most appropriate treatment, a file is kept listing drugs and their side effects. A direct line to the poisons information centre is also available.

Please remember that it is not always the obvious things that are harmful to your child. Cigarettes, talcum powder, plant seeds or alcohol for example can also be dangerous, so for your child's sake

**KEEP ALL MEDICINES
AND OTHER DANGEROUS
SUBSTANCES OUT OF THE
REACH OF CHILDREN**