
What you need to know about Babysitting and poison safety

You have been hired as a babysitter. Congratulations! Babysitting is a wonderful job but it requires a lot of preparation. It is important that the children you are babysitting for are kept safe from injury, including poisonings.

Children between the ages of one and three years are at the greatest risk of being unintentionally poisoned. Toddlers are curious and are always on the move. They learn by tasting and touching. They are attracted to objects, medicines and liquids that look colorful and smell good. It is important to watch children closely at all times.

Here are some tips to help keep the children you are babysitting poison-safe:

- Make sure all medicines are closed properly and out of sight and reach of children. The safety cap on medicine bottles keep most children from opening them, but if given enough time, some children will open them.
- Make sure household cleaners are stored out of site and reach of children...preferably locked in a cabinet.
- Keep your personal belongings such as cosmetics, medicine and art supplies away from children.
- When playing with children outside, keep them away from plants, berries and mushrooms.
- Always call the Maryland Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 as soon as you suspect a child has gotten into something they shouldn't have.

Don't be afraid to call the poison center! Parents appreciate a babysitter who knows what to do in an emergency!

1-800-222-1222

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Maryland Poison Center
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