

Safe Kids Worldwide has provided the following facts and tips to help prevent unintentional poisoning among children ages 14 and under.

- Fact:** In 2003, more than 1.2 million unintentional poisonings among children ages 5 and under were reported to U.S. Poison Control Centers.
- Fact:** In 2003, more than 89,300 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for unintentional poisoning. Nearly 80 percent of these injuries were to children ages 4 and under.
- Fact:** Nearly 90 percent of all poison exposures occur in homes.
- Fact:** Of the oral prescription drugs ingested by children ages 4 and under, 23 percent belong to someone who does not live with the child; 17 percent belong to a grandparent or great-grandparent.
- Fact:** The majority of CO exposures occur in the northern and midwestern states during the winter months, and the most common source of residential, non-fire CO-related poisoning is unvented supplemental heaters.
- Fact:** It is estimated that 890,000 children ages 1 to 5 have blood lead levels high enough to affect intelligence, growth and development. Children ages 1 and 2 are at greatest risk from lead poisoning.

A big concern with children is that their metabolisms are faster than adults and anything they ingest will be absorbed into the bloodstream very quickly.

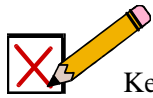
The following tips may help to prevent an unintentional poisoning from occurring:



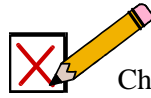
Know which household products are poisonous. (Find helpful resources on-line at the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center web-site www.rmpdc.org).



Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy.



Keep poisonous products out of kids' reach.



Choose medicines and products that have child-resistant caps.



Keep the National Poison Control Center hotline number by each phone:
1-800-222-1222.



Keep make-up, hairspray, cologne and other Personal products away from children.



Don't mix different cleaning products together.



Install carbon monoxide detectors in the home.



Keep products in the original containers.
Read labels to learn if a product is poisonous and for first aid information.



Throw away old medicines and cleaning products



For more information on unintentional poisoning: www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/injepi (click on Injury in Colorado), www.safekids.org, www.rmpdc.org, www.poisonprevention.org or call Barb Bailey, Safe Kids Colorado Coordinator with the Injury, Suicide and Violence Prevention Program (CDPHE) 303-692-2589.