



Safety in Schools Week June 8th to 12th 2009

AGENCY ACTIVITY

Agency

Kidsafe WA

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Activity Title What is a poison?

Activity Outcomes

Learning Area	Link to K-10 Syllabus	Outcome
Health and Physical Education	<p><u>Early Childhood (K-3)</u></p> <p>Context: DRUG EDUCATION Topic: Medicines</p> <p>Context: SAFETY Topic: First Aid</p>	<p>Knowledge and Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning and dimensions of health • Ways to keep healthier and safer <p>Interpersonal Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating • Co-operating and collaborating in groups <p>Self-management Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding emotions • Reviewing the situation

Phases of Development Early Childhood (K-3)

Resources Required

- Poisons Information Centre Stickers – Available from Kidsafe WA
- Pictures (from magazines, clipart, photographs etc) of a variety of potentially poisonous products. eg. Cleaning products, insecticides, paints, cosmetics, medications, tobacco, alcohol, petrol, some plants eg. Poinsettia, Rhubarb leaves
- Pictures of a variety of non-poisonous products
- Blue-tac
- Blackboard / Whiteboard
- Chalk / Whiteboard markers

Approx. Time Required 25 minutes

Procedure

Preparation

- If pictures of poisonous and non-poisonous items are small, photocopy them to A4 size
- Spread the pictures out on a desk at the front of the classroom
- Draw a two column table on the blackboard / whiteboard. Label one column "poisonous" and the other column "non-poisonous"

Procedure

- Ask students what they think is meant by the term "poison"
*Dictionary definition: "A substance that causes injury, illness, or death".
A substance can be poisonous when it is ingested (eaten), inhaled (breathed in), or comes into contact with skin or eyes. Some substances may not be poisonous when used correctly, but can become poisonous if used too much.*
- Ask students one at a time to come up to the desk at the front of the class, pick up a picture of either a "poisonous or non-poisonous" item and stick it on the board in the correct column. Alternatively, write a list of item names on the board and have students tick/cross them to identify whether they could be potentially poisonous
- Discuss with the class which of the products were actually potentially poisonous
Explain the differences between the products:
 1. *Some of the potentially poisonous products are strong poisons that can be very unsafe to handle eg. Insecticides, cleaning products, paints, solvents etc.*
 2. *Some of the products are safe to handle and use correctly, but can be poisonous if used incorrectly or ingested eg. Washing detergents, cosmetics.*
 3. *Some of the products are actually good for us if used correctly, but can be very poisonous if used too much eg. Medications: paracetamol, prescription medication.*
 4. *Some of the products people use but they are poisonous and damaging to their health eg. Alcohol, tobacco*
- Ask students if they can think of any other potentially poisonous products
- Discuss how to prevent poisoning
Never use any cleaning products etc without supervision, always ask a parent/guardian before taking any medicines, never touch/eat anything if you don't know what it is. Keep poisonous products in a locked container or cupboard high off the ground. Always keep products in their original container so you know what they are. Even if students think they are old enough to be able to recognise a poison and not to touch it/use it incorrectly, remind them that taking these steps will also protect their younger siblings etc.
- Discuss what to do if they think they, a younger sibling or someone else may be poisoned
Tell an adult straight away. Do not drink or eat anything. Do not try to vomit. Ring the Poisons Information Centre ph. 13 11 26
- Hand out Poisons Information Centre Stickers to students. Tell them to stick them on their phones (home or mobile).

Community Links

How could the school involve the local community, parents and seniors in Safety in Schools Week?

Organise Home Safety Talks to be run by Kidsafe WA with parents.

Hold a School Busy Bee to clean up the school to address safety/maintenance issues.

Policy and Procedures

Are you aware of the School's written Health and Safety Policy? If not: -

- Check with administration
- Refer to the Department of Education and Training's Risk Management Policy and Occupational Safety and Health Policy

Do you have safety structures and procedures in place?

- Does the school have a first aid person? (Structure)
- Is there a plan of how to access the first aid person? (Procedure)

Other Resources Available

- Poisoning fact sheet – downloadable from the Kidsafe WA website
- Poisonous Plants fact sheet – downloadable from the Kidsafe WA website
- Poisons Lock up and Away brochure – available from Kidsafe WA