

Activity Ideas

Poison Prevention Week

What is National Poison Prevention Week?

Congress established National Poison Prevention Week more than forty years ago to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings. Over one million poisonings involving small children are reported to poison centers each year. Many of these poisonings could have been prevented. Poison centers organize events during this special week to educate parents and others about which household products are poisonous, how to prevent poisonings from occurring, and what to do if a poisoning occurs. “**Mr. Means NO!**” is the theme for Washington State’s Poison Prevention Week 2007.

The following are activity ideas that you can do at home, in your community or with children to promote Poison Prevention Week and poison safety. Pick one or more that you would have fun doing. Remember Poison Prevention Week is the 3rd full week in March – but poison safety needs to happen every day!

- Memorize the Poison Help Hotline telephone number: 1-800-222-1222.
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons, poison prevention or the Poison Help Hotline 1-800-222-1222 at your local library, school, gym, workplace or grocery store.
- Hand out Mr. Yuk stickers – everyone can benefit from having Mr. Yuk as a reminder to keep poisons safe.
- Tell one person a day about the Poison Center Hotline 1-800-222-1222.
- Write a song or jingle about Mr. Yuk – share it with family or school.
- Organize a poster contest at a local school or community group.
- Write a creative story about poison safety, read it to a group.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about the importance of poison safety or experiences about calling the Washington Poison Center.
- Give Mr. Yuk stickers to a child’s school or group to take home.
- Put on a puppet show about poison safety.
- While watching TV with a child point out all the things that could be poisonous – make it a game.
- Go through old magazines, newspapers, store ads, and other sources to find pictures of substances that might be harmful if used incorrectly – have a child put the poisonous pictures in a Mr. Yuk bag and the others in a happy face bag or create a "poison collage."
- Clean out your medicine cabinet.
- Go through your house and/or workplace checking that all poisons are put away properly and in their original, labeled child-resistant containers.

- Invite youth to create a public safety message. Suggest that they read, or read aloud to them, the script for a poison prevention radio spot. Then ask students to write and perform their own poison or drug prevention message. (You might even work with a local doctor to create some other radio spots to air on a local radio station. Other possible spots include ones for teen smoking, kids and tobacco, bug bites, teen smoking, teenage marijuana use, secondhand smoke, poison oak/ivy, snake bites, and teen drinking.)
- Give a poison prevention presentation to local school children and community groups.
- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets to friends, family and co-workers.
- Hand out telephone stickers with the 1-800-222-1222 Poison Center number.
- Label every phone in your home with a poison center telephone sticker.
- Make up a trivia game about poisons and poison safety. Some suggested questions can be found online at www.pharmacy.arizona.edu/outreach/poison/toxtrivia.php
- Create a Mr. Yuk word search or cross-word puzzle using this free website <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/WordSearchSetupForm.html>
- Stick Mr. Yuk stickers on all potentially poisonous products in your home – this way you have the Poison Center phone number handy in an emergency.
- Make a plan with your family on what to do if an emergency occurs – use this online guide to help: www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/pheprgeninfo.htm or www.ready.gov.
- Bookmark the Washington Poison Center website under your favorites: www.wapc.org