







## SAMPLE POISON PREVENTION LESSON PLAN

### Presentation Outline

- ☑ Define poison/non-poison.
- ☑ Discuss dangers of poisons.
- ☑ Present pictures for discussion.

### Activities

- ☑ Define poison.
- ☑ Identify pictures of food/poison.
- ☑ Draw a picture of a poison and write/tell a story about where it can be found.

### What is a Poison?

Facilitate the discussion by asking the children, “What is a poison?” Common responses may be spiders, snakes, poison ivy, etc.

Explain that a poison is something that can make you sick if you taste it, smell it, get it on your skin, or in your eyes. Tell them that something that is useful for cleaning purposes, for example, can be harmful to a person if swallowed. Many products are safe when used as intended, but may be a poison when used in the wrong way. *(For example, medicine is a pill or liquid that can be taken to feel better when sick, but can cause harm and be a poison if misused. Medicines should only be taken from a parent, health provider or trusted adult.)*

It’s important for children to understand that poisons come in all shapes and sizes and in many different types of containers. They can be plants, liquids, powders, gases, fumes, or sprays.

Something typically regarded as useful or beneficial to us can become a poison if used in the wrong way; like vitamins, medicines, perfumes, cosmetics, or household cleaners.

### Activity

- Display pictures of common household items that are poisonous
  - Play a video (Spike, Stop, Ask First)
  - Ask the children the following questions:
    - (1) What poisons are found around the house?
    - (2) If you see something and you don’t know what it is or you think it might be poisonous, what do you do?
    - (3) Prompt children to say: “STAY AWAY” (Use the hand signal for stay away)
    - (4) “Is a poison a good thing or a bad thing?” Children should respond in unison that a poison is a bad thing.
    - (5) “Why is it a bad thing?” Children may respond that a poison will make you sick or hurt your body. Some children may even respond that a poison can kill you.
- Note: When children provide a response related to death, remind them that

some poisons are so dangerous to your body that they can kill you. Remind them poisons can look like food or drink. Teach children to always ask an adult before eating or drinking anything. If you don't know what it is: "Always Ask First."

- Listen to a few responses from the children and then give a summarized definition that they can easily relate to, such as, "A poison is something that can hurt your body or make you sick if used in the wrong way. Anything can be a poison if it is used in the wrong way."
- What is the Poison Prevention Golden Rule?  
If you see something and you don't know what it is or you think it might be poison (have children repeat in unison):  
STAY AWAY!  
DON'T TOUCH IT!  
DON'T TASTE IT!  
DON'T SMELL IT!  
Stop, Ask an Adult

### Activity

Mix empty safe and unsafe containers (representing poisons and non-poisons) together in a separate box or bag labeled with a question mark "?".

Also place two boxes in front of the room—one box labeled with a bold red "X" or the word "NO" and the other with a bold green check mark "☑" or "OK".

Pull out items one by one from box or bag labeled with a question mark "?" and choose a volunteer to place the item in the appropriate box.

Unsafe items (poisons) are to be placed in the box marked with the "X" and safe items are to be placed in the box marked with the "☑" or "OK". The teacher may ask each child to discuss why he or she considers an item a poison or a non-poison.

Create a handout like the examples included below. Have the student's mark Yes through the poisons and remind them to Stop! Always Ask. Refer to the soda can to remind them that not all products advertised are healthy or safe.

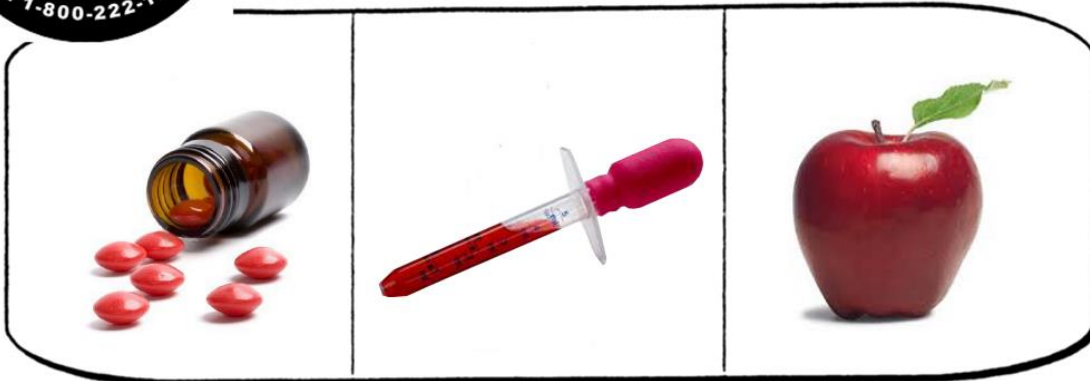
This lesson adapted from: [https://211.idaho.gov/pdf/PPW\\_MATLS\\_LessonPlans.pdf](https://211.idaho.gov/pdf/PPW_MATLS_LessonPlans.pdf)

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**2 Alike, 1 Not Alike**

In each group, draw a CIRCLE around the those that are Alike.  
Draw an X through the one that is Not Alike



- [https://211.idaho.gov/pdf/PPW\\_MATLS\\_LessonPlans.pdf](https://211.idaho.gov/pdf/PPW_MATLS_LessonPlans.pdf)



Draw an X through the Poisons . . .