

The Nebraska Regional Poison Center Intermediate Program Outline

Thank you for your interest in Poison Prevention. We have provided this outline as a tool to help you in your presentation. Basic concepts are highlighted, presentation techniques are suggested and materials for reinforcement and home distribution are included. We trust this introduction may be helpful as you prepare your activity. Feel free to adapt the presentation ideas to suit your style as well as the needs and abilities of your audience.

Children in this age group (third grade and above) may be left alone for small periods of time and are starting to assume care of other siblings, they need to know not only how to identify a poison but what action to take if a poisoning does occur. Many children become abusers of inhalants before they are even halfway through grade school. That is one reason we have chosen to address inhalant abuse.

Review the basic outline for the presentation. Encourage discussion of the facts not fiction - help keep them on track! After viewing the videotape, you may decide that the inhalant portion of the videotape is not appropriate for your audience. Please read the supporting material on inhalant abuse to assist you in your decision. If you are comfortable with the topic, allow questions and answers. They may have some you can't answer or are unsure of - check with us. The poison specialists at the **Nebraska Regional Poison Center** are always ready to help you. Just call us at 1-800-222-1222, or in Omaha: 955-5555!

An important part of any learning activity is review and evaluation. Please take a moment at the end of your presentation to complete the enclosed evaluation form. It helps us review our programs and we love to hear from you also. Share your ideas, pictures and suggestions with us - we can and do learn from your input. Thanks again for sharing in this important aspect of safety education.

Supplies you may need

Empty bottles of household poisons (i.e. children's vitamins, a prescription medicine bottle, over the counter medicines the children may recognize like Triaminic, Pepto-Bismol and Tylenol, cologne or after shave, shampoo, drain cleaner, dish soap, oven cleaner, furniture polish, insect repellent, windshield fluid, oil, cigarettes, plant leaves or flowers (artificial will illustrate the point). You may want to take your examples from different rooms in the house and from the garage.

- Magazines to have children clip out household poisons.
- Play telephone to act out situations in small groups.
- Art supplies to do activity sheets with.
- Nebraska Regional Poison Center videotape and materials.

Objectives:

To introduce the concept of poison using common household items. To introduce the concept of poison safety by discussing appropriate positive behaviors. To introduce the concept of the dangers of inhalant abuse.

Evaluation:

Children will be able to identify common poisons, steps to take after a poisoning, dangers of inhalant abuse. *The intermediate videotape has text in the inhalant section that you may want to read to younger classes and discuss due to the short amount of time it appears on the screen and level of difficulty of the words. We have reprinted the text to assist you.*

- Short term effects of inhalant abuse: Dizziness, loss of balance and coordination, psychological problems, violent behavior.
- Long term effects of inhalant abuse: Extreme weight loss, reduced mental and physical abilities, permanent nerve and brain damage.
- Death from inhalant use can occur at any time...