

Quality Care For Kids Newsletter

July 2023 | Safe Medication Practices

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Understanding and properly administering medication is an important part of child care work. Families rely on you to make sure their children get the medications they need during the day.



**POISON
HELP**
1-800-222-1222



In Iowa



76% of families with all parents working have children under the age of six.

(Child Care Resource and Referral, 2022)



Many children can spend 10 or more hours per day in child care.



More than 50% of U.S. children take one or more medications per week.

(Yin et al., Liquid Medication Dosing Errors in Children 2014)

Tammy Noble, RN, BSN, CSPI with the Iowa Poison Control Center said nearly 9 in 10 adults agree it's important to store medication up high and out of reach of children, yet nearly 7 in 10 report that they often keep medication where a child can see it. This is one of the leading factors of medication errors.

When giving medication, practice poison prevention and handle medications safely.

- Always follow the “6 rights” of medication administration.
- For liquid medication use an oral syringe for accurate dosage. Consider asking the parent to ask their pharmacist if they have a free flow reducer to help limit the amount of liquid that can come out of the bottle.
- “Child-resistant” caps will only slow a child down by a few minutes and are not “child-proof.”
- Always store ALL medication completely inaccessible to children.
- NEVER try make someone vomit after a medication error or a poisoning.
- Encourage parents to practice safe medication storage.
- Always keep medication in original, child-resistant packaging.
- Save the Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222, in your phone and post it by all phones.
- Take a medication administration training if you give medications to children.
- Work with your local CCNC to review your medication policy, storage and handling of medication.

6 RIGHTS OF MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- 1 RIGHT PERSON
- 2 RIGHT MEDICATION
- 3 RIGHT DOSE
- 4 RIGHT TIME
- 5 RIGHT ROUTE
- 6 RIGHT DOCUMENTATION

If you have questions or suspect a medication mistake or poisoning, call the Iowa Poison Control Center.

Healthy Child Care Iowa's new medication administration course, "Medication Administration Skills Competency Online 2023-2027 Edition", meets the required medication administration course for IQ4K™. To locate this training check HHS I-Power website. To find documents available for child care providers to use for the authorization and recording of medication, and non-medication topical products, visit the Healthy Child Care Iowa website.

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