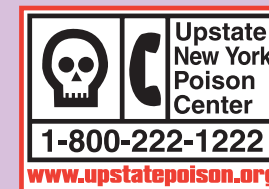


The majority of poisonings in the U. S. involve medication. Medication in backpacks and lunchboxes, mixed in with other personal belongings, can be dangerous not only to your child but to your child's schoolmates.

The truth is, you might not always have control over the medication included in a backpack. Show your child how important this matter is to you, by following these steps:

- Find out exactly what the school's policy is on bringing and administering medication and follow it.
- Discuss the school policy with your child as well as the specific medication directions and precautions. If your child is old enough, make sure to explain the dangers of the misuse, abuse and the accidental nature of poisonings.
- Keep medication in its original container or ask the pharmacist for another pill vial to store only the amount necessary for school. List all the information as on the original vial, which can then be kept at home.
- Take the time to talk directly to your child's teacher/nurse about the medication, to be on the look-out for any symptoms or unusual behavior. (e.g. Cold and cough preparations often contain alcohol and can cause excitability or the opposite, drowsiness in a child.)
- Present the teacher/nurse written information with the name of your child, the name of the medication and detailed instructions. Take every precaution to prevent an accident from happening.
- Include the number of the Poison Control Center. Naturally, Poison Center Specialists cannot determine your child's dosage, as prescribed by the doctor, but we can act as a resource, if necessary. (The Poison Center will gladly send you a telephone sticker, just call.)

Accidents are not supposed to happen, but they do. Keep your child as safe as possible by taking the steps to reduce the risk of poisonings.



BACK TO SCHOOL POISON SAFETY

Dialing 1.800.222.1222 will connect you to the Poison Control Center in your area. To contact the Upstate New York Poison Control Center business office, dial 1.315.464.7078.

Visit our website at www.upstatepoison.org