



POISON EMERGENCY  
POISON INFORMATION

UPSTATE  
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## Over the Counter (OTC) Literacy Program Teaching grades 5 and 6

A recent study indicates that children begin taking medicine on their own around age 11. It is important for children to know the rules of medication safety *before* they embark on this journey of self-medicating.

In collaboration with Scholastic and McNeill Consumer Healthcare, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) is promoting the *OTC Literacy* Program, available online at <http://www.scholastic.com/OTCliteracy>. The program provides teachers, school nurses and parents accurate and up to date information for teaching children the rules of medication safety.

The OTC Literacy program, modeled after the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) Medicines in My Home is targeted at fifth and sixth graders and is in alignment with Core Education Standards. The program includes pre and post assessments in addition to valuable lessons for the students such as: Understanding the Drug Facts Label, Measuring and Storing Medication as well as information about Medicine Abuse. The phone number for Poison Control is listed prominently in the materials. Readers are encouraged to call the Poison Center with either questions about medications or in a poison emergency. Open 24/7 Poison Centers are always available to help.

Additionally, the program offers another component for success at <http://www.scholastic.com/OTCliteracy/parents>, providing parents tools to help them reinforce school-based learning or for use as a learning opportunity within the home setting, opening the lines of communication between child and parent on this important topic. One unique item, identified as the "Digital Flipbook" relates stories about medication, allowing both parent and child the opportunity to read, discuss and most importantly to come together for a conclusion that promotes the safe use of medication.

Be sure to visit the websites above to find these exciting tools to help you promote safe medication rules with your child before they begin self-medicating.