

Preventing Poisoning

*Advice for households with
Children Under 5*

Babies and toddlers are learning all the time as they experience new things every day.

They will put things into their mouth to see what they taste and feel like and will find all sorts of ways to reach things that they think look like something tasty – like sweets.



At first glance can you tell the difference?



**It could be easy for a child to mistake the
medicine for sweets!**

(sweets on the right)

What might be in reach?



These are visually appealing ... but can poison a child



It may be handy keeping cleaning chemicals nearby but it's also handy for a child to reach.



Do not rely on the bottle's safety cap keeping a child from removing it! Children can be determined and pick up new skills quickly.

Other poisons to be aware of:

- Silica Gel

- These are the small packets that come inside packaging to absorb moisture. Dispose of these safely right away.



- E-Cigarettes

- The liquid can have an appealing smell and the packaging bright and appealing BUT is toxic. If inhaled, ingested or comes in to contact with skin/eyes it can cause very serious damage.



- **Plug-in air fresheners**
 - The liquid contained in these can be harmful.
 - These devices are plugged in to the wall socket which are well within the reach of a curious child.

- **Plants**
 - Be aware of which plants are poisonous - do they have berries or leaves that could be harmful if ingested or come in to contact with skin/eyes?



Liquitabs can cause damage to eyes or airways.



The alkaline chemicals in the liquitabs cause immediate chemical burns, causing breathing difficulties as the airways start to swell rapidly.

Button Cell Batteries



Not just a choking hazard ...



This is a folded piece of ham with a button cell battery placed between it along with a few drops of water to simulate the effect on internal organs if it were swallowed.



After just over 30 minutes acid has been produced. If the battery were travelling through the digestive system it has the potential to cause damage, burning holes in the throat, stomach and other internal organs – and could even be fatal.

So what should I do?

- Look around the home for items that may contain button cell batteries or spare batteries and keep them out of sight and reach.
- **Ensure items that use button cell batteries have secure battery compartment covers. When buying toys make sure they are age appropriate and have a CE or equivalent safety mark.**
- If you think your child has swallowed a button cell battery seek medical attention immediately.

- Look around the home – imagine the child's eye view – what can they reach?
- **Move the poisons we've identified up out of children's sight and reach.**
- **Be alert when visiting other homes – can Granny or Granda's medication accessed easily by a child?**
- If it is not possible to move items out of reach, cupboard locks or catches can be retro-fitted.
- **Never decant chemicals in to unmarked bottles such as empty drinks bottles.**

Can the Council can help?

We provide home safety checks for households with a child under 5 where we can give tailored information and advice about home safety.

If eligible, useful home safety items/gadgets can be provide free of charge.

**To self refer or to refer on someone's
behalf please contact us on:**

028 9034 0160

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