



Medication Safety Patrol: A Toolkit for Elementary-Aged Children

We are a medication-taking society, consuming billions of medications in the U.S. alone each year. Prescription and over-the-counter medicines are typically accessible and visible in our homes, and children should understand prescription and over-the-counter medication safety at an early age. **What follows is a collection of age-appropriate, engaging resources that educate children (grades K-5) about medication safety principles, equipping them with a foundation for understanding how to use medicines safely before they enter their teen and adult years.**

Overview of the toolkit

This toolkit highlights four medication safety principles:

1. Only take medicine given by a trusted adult.
2. Do not share medication or take someone else's medication.
3. Keep medications in their original containers to avoid confusion with candy or other medicines.
4. Always store medicine in a safe place, such as a locked cabinet or a high shelf that children can't reach.

A "safety patrol" theme reiterates these four principles throughout the games and activities. The versatile resources also utilize a variety of teaching and learning techniques - they may be used in small or large groups, as stand-alone activities, or in combination.

The toolkit consists of four sections:

1. Active Stations:

- Station 1: Q&A Safety Rounds
- Station 2: Prescription Label Lookouts
- Station 3: Medicine Hideouts: Safe or Unsafe?
- Optional application station: Medication Safety Skits

2. Games:

- Medication Safety Patrol: Good Choice or Bad Choice?
- Medication Safety Patrol: Trivia
- Medication Safety Patrol: Is it candy or medicine?

3. Supplemental Worksheets:

- Pharmacy Crossword Puzzle
- Prescription Puzzlers
- Patrol Drawings

4. Visual Aids:

- Medicine vs. Candy
- Safe Medication Storage
- Prescription Label

Interested in utilizing these resources to educate children? Download the *Medication Safety Introduction to the Toolkit*, which will further introduce the resources and help you to get started.

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