



Medication Safety Patrol: Activity Stations

Introduction

"Medication Safety Patrol: Activity Stations" include three activity stations and one optional application station that cover principles of safe medication-taking practices. Each station is designed for groups of 2-8 participants to complete an activity either as a small group or as partners. Below you'll find the activity name and objective of each station, as well as additional materials you'll need for participants to complete these activities.

To begin, set-up three distinct stations or work areas in your designated space. Place the appropriate worksheets and materials at each station. Divide participants into three groups (if you have more than 24 participants, you may consider creating two distinct locations for each station). Ask each group to start at a different station—after 10-15 minutes, ask groups to rotate to the next station. As participants work through the activities at each station, we encourage station facilitators to walk around and engage participants in these activities.





When each group has rotated through every station, discuss each activity as a large group using the talking points and answers identified on p. 2-4 of this handout. If you have time, we encourage you to finish this program by conducting the optional application station, Medication Safety Skits, as a larger group. This activity applies concepts that the participants learned in Stations 1-3.

How much time do I need to complete these stations?

Total time for completing stations 1-3 = 30 minutes to 1 hour. (Each station will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.) If you wish to also complete the optional application station, total time = 1-1.5 hours.

We encourage facilitators to discuss answers and specific talking points as a larger group following completion of all three stations.

What activities are in the stations?

				
Activity name	Q&A Safety Rounds	Prescription Label Lookouts	Medicine Hideouts: Safe or Unsafe?	Medication Safety Skits
Objective	Define common medication terms and safe medication-taking practices.	Identify the different parts of a prescription medicine label.	Determine safe places to store medications.	Analyze scenarios to determine if children followed safe medication-taking practices.

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What materials do I need to complete the stations?

	Handout to download	Number of copies*	Additional materials
Station 1	MedSafety_ActiveStation1	Per station: 1	Scissors
Station 2	MedSafety_ActiveStation2	Per person: 1	Pen or pencil
Station 3	MedSafety_ActiveStation3	Per person: 1	Pen or pencil
Opt. activity	MedSafety_OptionalStation	Per group: 1 scenario**	Pen or pencil, props (optional)

*Group defined as 2-8 participants.

**This handout contains four scenarios. Each group needs one copy of 1 of the 4 scenarios.

Talking Points and Answers

Talking points and answers are organized by station.

Station
1

Q&A Safety Rounds Talking Points and Answers

Synopsis and Instructions

As a group, participants will each possess both Question and Answer cards. The student with a #1 on their Question card reads their question first and everyone then looks at their Answer cards to see if they have the answer. If one believes they have the correct answer, they will read their answer aloud, and the group must decide if that answer is indeed correct. The game continues until all questions have been answered (proceed numerically, Questions #1 through #6).

Talking Points and Answers

Q1: What is a medicine?

A: A substance that is used to treat disease or injury.

Q2: What is a prescription medicine?

A: One type of medicine that a doctor prescribes to treat disease or injury.

Q3: What is an over-the-counter medicine?

A: One type of medicine that can be purchased at a drug store or pharmacy without a prescription.

Q4: True or False? You should only take a medicine when given to you by a trusted adult.

A: TRUE

Q5: True or False? Taking more of a medicine than instructed will always make you feel better.

A: FALSE. Taking more of a medicine than instructed could actually make you feel more sick. Always follow instructions!

Q6: True or False? It is okay to share your medicine or take somebody else's prescription medicine.

A: FALSE: Everybody is different. You should never share or take somebody else's medicine.

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Station 2

Prescription Label Lookouts Talking Points and Answers

Synopsis and Instructions

Working in small groups, participants will identify the parts of a prescription medicine label and consider the importance of each part.

Talking Points

Why do you think it is important to identify the parts of a prescription medicine label?

It is important so participants can:

1. Identify the person allowed to take the prescription medicine.
2. Identify the instructions to follow in order to take the medicine correctly.
3. Contact the pharmacy in case of an emergency.

Answers

Part 2

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jack Smith | 3. (800) 555-5555 |
| 2. 123 Main Street
Anytown, USA 11111 | 4. Penicillin
5. 2 pills |

Part 3

1. **Jack Smith has a sister, Jane Smith. If Jane Smith becomes sick with the same illness as Jack, can Jane take some of Jack's prescription medicine?**

No, everyone is different. Therefore, you should only take medicine prescribed for you—this is one reason why it is important to identify the different parts of a medicine label.

Station 3

Medicine Hideouts: Safe or Unsafe? Talking Points and Answers

Synopsis and Instructions

Participants work together to analyze a worksheet that contains labeled illustrations of common places for medicine storage in a home. Participants will circle the '✓' if the photo illustrates a safe storage place, or circle the 'X' if the photo illustrates an unsafe storage place.

Talking Points

1. **List the *safe* places to store your medicines. Why do you think you should store your medicines in these spaces?**
Medicines should always be stored in locked cabinets or high shelves where they cannot be easily accessed.
2. **List the *unsafe* places to store your medicines. Why do you think you should NOT store your medicines in these spaces?** These are unsafe places because they could be easily accessed by young children.

Answers

- Safe storage places: bathroom closet, kitchen cabinets, medicine cabinet
- Unsafe storage places: bathroom counter, nightstand, kitchen counter

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Optional
Application
Station

Medication Safety Skits Talking Points and Answers



Synopsis and Instructions

Participants will be provided with an unfinished script and asked to write the ending of the script. The script deals with a specific medication safety problem faced by the characters. There are four scenarios total—you may wish to divide the participants into four or fewer small groups, and provide each group with a different scenario.

Once all participants complete this activity, ask each group to perform their skit for the entire group. After each performance, engage the entire group with the corresponding question identified in the section below.

Talking Points and Answers

Scenario 1:

Why do you think it is important to only take medicines when given to you by a trusted adult?

A: Only take medicines when given to you by a trusted adult. This helps ensure that you are following instructions, taking the right medicine, and helping (not hurting) your body.

Scenario 2:

Why do you think we should only take prescription medicines prescribed for us by our doctor and not share medicine, even if it is to treat the same illness?

A: Everybody is different, and you should only take prescription medicines that are prescribed for YOU. It is never okay to share or take somebody else's medicine.

Scenario 3:

Why do you think it is important to follow the EXACT instructions listed on the medicine label?

A: Taking more of a medicine than instructed could actually harm your body and make you feel more sick. Always follow instructions and only take the instructed amount of a medicine from a trusted adult.

Scenario 4:

Why do you think it is important that we always keep our medicines in the original bottle provided by the pharmacist?

A: Medicines can look very similar to one another yet have entirely different uses. If medicines are removed from their original bottle, it is difficult to identify the medicine and this may lead to a potentially harmful situation. In addition, medicine removed from its original container may easily become confused with candy. In case of an emergency, remind participants to notify an adult.

Where are the SAFE and UNSAFE places to store medicines? Why do you think we should only store medicines in the safe places that you have listed?

A: These safe places ensure that children cannot accidentally acquire the medicine and take it without the supervision of an adult.

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