

CHILDREN
WITH

poisoning



Children with poisoning

General information:

Young children are generally very curious and tend to put everything in their mouth. Not only labelled chemicals are poisonous. Dishwasher detergent, cigarettes, plants, vitamin pills and medicine etc., should always be kept out of the reach of small children.

Symptoms:

Depend on what the child has ingested. With some poisonings the symptoms only appear later, while others appear almost immediately. The child may vomit, be apathetic, get diarrhea, have affected breathing, cough or lose consciousness.

When to see a doctor?

If you know or suspect that your child has eaten something dangerous or toxic, you should contact your general practitioner or the doctor on call as soon as possible.



Treatment:

- If your child has a poisonous substance on the skin or in the eyes:

Rinse the eyes or skin immediately with running water.

If your child has been drinking a corrosive substance or kerosene product, e.g. lamp oil, toilet cleaner, dishwasher detergent, caustic soda, lighter fuel, acetic acid, decalcifier, household ammonia or chlorine:

Prevent the child from vomiting.

Give the child water to drink and rinse the child's mouth.

- Other – e.g. medicine, vitamin pills, cigarettes and plants:

Clean the child's mouth for anything visible.

It is important that you give the doctor any remains of what the child has eaten together with the packaging/jar. Informative labelling can be very helpful when treating the child.

Prevention:

- Always make sure that dangerous objects, including cigarettes, are kept out of the reach of children
- Do not transfer dangerous objects or substances to another packaging

- When you decalcify your electric kettle/coffee maker, pour out the water immediately so that you do not forget
- Do not keep poisonous plants in the house
- Keep all medicine, including vitamin pills, in a childproof cabinet
- Never keep cleaning detergents, liquid fertilizer and dishwasher detergents under the kitchen sink or in other places where the child can get a hold of it.

We strongly recommend a locked cupboard for storage.

Good advice:

Ask your health visitor for advice about poisonous plants, etc.

A (Danish) book called "Farlig/ufarlig" (Dangerous/safe) gives advice and guidance about almost everything children can think of eating and drinking. You can order this from "Forbrugerrådet" (The Danish Consumer Council).

Childcare:

The child can return to childcare when it feels well enough to play with other children again and does not need special care.

Parental guidelines

These guidelines have been prepared by a working group set up by the departments of paediatrics in Herning, Randers, Skejby and Viborg.

The intention with these guidelines is to provide parents with advice across the following sectors: health visitors, general practitioners, doctors on call, and the staff at paediatric admission wards in the Central Denmark Region.

The parental guidelines can be seen and downloaded from the internet on the web site www.fv.rm.dk

You may order additional copies from Rikke Dalsgaard,
Koncern Kvalitet, Central Denmark Region,
Skottenborg 26, 8800 Viborg. rikke.dalsgaard@stab.rm.dk

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