



# Poisons and children

Always ensure that poisons are out of the reach of children. All poisons, including prescription drugs and over the counter medications should be kept in secure storage areas.



**For all medical emergencies dial 000 immediately and ask for Ambulance**

## **TAKING ACTION IF A POISONING OCCURS**

If you suspect a child has consumed a poison, follow these tips:

- > Dial 000 immediately and ask for Ambulance.
- > Identify what was taken and keep a sample including any packaging.
- > Try to find how much was taken and when.
- > Call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 from anywhere in Australia, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- > Follow advice given by the Poisons Information Centre.

## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN**

If a child swallows poison they may survive the poisoning, but may suffer permanent damage to their mouth, throat and stomach as a result of burns from the chemicals.

The following tips will help you to safeguard your children:

- > Look at your home from your child's point of view. Get down on your hands and knees and check out cupboards and drawers.
- > Putting poisons up high isn't enough — they need to be kept behind locked or childproof doors.
- > Ensure all products are stored in original containers and are clearly labelled.
- > Regularly dispose of unused or out-of-date medicines by taking them to the chemist.
- > Don't refer to any medications as 'lollies'.

## **FIRST AID COURSES**

The Ambulance Service of New South Wales encourages everyone to learn first aid. This can give you the confidence to assist when someone is injured or ill. To enrol in a first aid course contact an accredited provider listed with the Workcover Authority.

### **For further information please contact:**