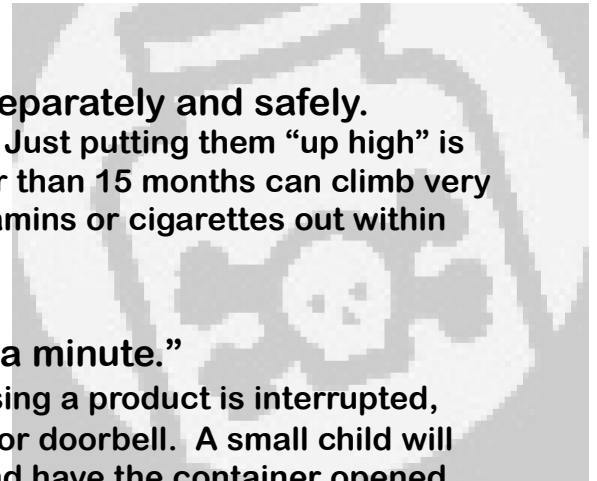


Poisoning

This year hundreds of thousands of children will be exposed to poisons. It's one of the most common childhood injuries. Most of these "accidents" are completely preventable!

- ◆ **Store all chemicals and medicines separately and safely.**
These should be kept in a locked cabinet. Just putting them "up high" is not safe enough, since most children older than 15 months can climb very well. Don't leave cosmetics, cleaners, vitamins or cigarettes out within reach.
- ◆ **Don't leave a container out for "just a minute."**
Many poisonings happen when an adult using a product is interrupted, such as leaving it to go answer the phone or doorbell. A small child will take advantage of the lack of attention, and have the container opened when the adult returns.
- ◆ **Child-proof caps "aren't."**
The caps on many medicines and chemicals are "child resistant." None of them are child-proof. It may take a child longer to remove these lids...but they can get them opened. Don't rely on the cap alone to keep curious children out.
- ◆ **Know what to do in case of a poisoning.**
Calling the Poison Center is always the correct action to take if someone's been exposed to a poison or medicine. Place stickers with the Poison Center's emergency number on your telephones. Make sure grandparents and babysitters have the number posted.
- ◆ **Keep Activated Charcoal in your first aid kit but do not administer unless told to do so by a Poison Center.**
It can be bought at the pharmacy with a prescription.



Virginia Poison Center
Emergency Line: 1-800-222-1222
Business Line: 804-828-4780