



# Georgia Poison Center



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**POISON HELP: 1.800.222.1222** ▪ ADMINISTRATION: 404.616.9237 ▪ FAX: 404.616.6657 ▪ EDUCATION: 404.616.9235

Dear Teachers and Parents:

The Georgia Poison Center is pleased to announce the annual Poison Prevention Poster and Video PSA Contest. Everyone here at the poison center is excited to see what your student/child creates.

This year's themes from which to choose from for the contest are "Children Act Fast, So Do Poisons," "Poisonings Span a Lifetime," "Home Safe Home," and "Medicine Safety." Each entry should illustrate one of the themes.

The poster contest is only open to students Pre-K through Fifth grade. We will have two separate divisions, Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. The video PSA is open to middle school and high school students. We will have only one division.

Attached to this letter are the entry rules, submission form, and the consent/release form. All forms for each participating student must be completed, signed, and submitted along with the poster or video. All entries must be submitted by the deadline of **Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**. Poster entries should be submitted via mail and video PSAs should be submitted via our website.

Winners will be selected by our poison center staff and will be recognized during our December staff meeting, which is Tuesday evening, December 11, 2018. All winning posters and videos will also be highlighted on our website and Facebook page during National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), which is March 17-23, 2019. NPPW is designated by the President of the United States to highlight the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

Should you have any questions about the contest or educational programs please call the education department at 404-616-9235.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to seeing your student/child entries.

Warm Regards,

*Britni Overall*

Education/Development Supervisor  
Georgia Poison Center



## A NOTE ABOUT UNINTENTIONAL POISONING

While the word “poison” may immediately conjure images of substances that are meant to cause harm, in reality anything can be poisonous when used in the wrong amount, in the wrong way, or by the wrong person. Even medicines, which are designed to help us maintain our health, can be poisonous. There are many products and substances available that make our lives better when used as intended, but can cause great harm when used in ways that are not intended.

### Top 10 Substances for All Ages:

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| 1. Analgesics<br>(like Motrin® and Tylenol®)                                   | 6. Antidepressants<br>(like Wellbutrin® and Cymbalta®)                                 |
| 2. Household Cleaning Substances<br>(like bleach and dish detergent)           | 7. Cardiovascular Drugs<br>(like Lipitor® and Niaspan®)                                |
| 3. Cosmetics/Personal Care Products<br>(like perfume, shampoo, and toothpaste) | 8. Bites and Envenomations<br>(like snakes, spiders, and ants)                         |
| 4. Sedative/Hypnotics/Antipsychotics<br>(like Prolixin® and Ambien®)           | 9. Pesticides<br>(like Roundup® and Ortho®)  |
| 5. Antihistamines<br>(like Allegra® and Benadryl®)                             | 10. Foreign Bodies/Toys/Miscellaneous<br>(like coins, batteries, and silica gel packs) |

Also, injury via poisoning is not limited to ingestion, or when someone swallows something potentially dangerous. Poisoning injury can also occur when someone gets something that may cause harm on the skin, in the eyes, in the respiratory system, and other ways. It’s important to note that unintentional poisoning can happen to anyone, regardless of age. In fact, only about half of the calls managed by the nation’s 55 poison centers each year are about children under 6 years old- the rest are about adults!

### The GPC seeks to promote the prevention of unintentional injury due to poisoning across all poison hazards and ages.

The good news is that with some simple precautions, unintentional poisoning is largely preventable when people follow these five general poisoning prevention tips:

1. **BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY.** Save the national Poison Help number, 1 (800) 222-1222 in your mobile phone and display it in your home and at work in case of emergency, or in the event that you have safety questions.
2. **PRACTICE SAFE STORAGE HABITS.** Ideally, the following things should be stored up, away, and out of sight of children. Keep in mind that there is no such thing as a 100% child-proof lock or container.
  - All medications and pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and supplements
  - Tobacco and e-cigarette products, especially liquid nicotine
  - Laundry and cleaning supplies
  - Pesticides and insect repellants
  - Button batteries
  - Any type of oil or lubricant, including fragrance oils, tiki torch oil, engine oil, etc.
  - Personal care products like hand sanitizers
  - Other chemicals
3. **READ AND FOLLOW LABELS AND DIRECTIONS.** Make a habit of reviewing the label on any potentially hazardous substance or product prior to use, especially before administering medications. Take care to follow not only usage directions, but the directions provided for safe storage and disposal as well.
4. **DETECT INVISIBLE THREATS.** Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
5. **PRACTICE SAFE DISPOSAL.** Get rid of any expired or unused medications.