The Facts about Kids and Medication Safety

Every parent knows it’s important to store medicine up and away from children, but every year more than

500,000 parents

and caregivers call a poison control center because a child got into medicine or because they were given the wrong dose of medicine. That’s one call every minute of every day.

In 2011, more than 67,000 kids were treated in an emergency room for medicine poisoning. That’s one child every 8 minutes.

Where are children finding medicine?

- 27% ground or misplaced
- 20% purse/bag/wallet
- 20% counter/dresser/table/nightstand
- 15% pillbox or bag of pills
- 12% other (known)
- 6% cabinet/drawer

(2011 emergency room visits; of the 14% of cases known.)

86% of emergency room visits for medicine poisoning were due to the child getting into adult medicine.

- 38% grandparent’s
- 8% father’s
- 31% mothers
- 12% sibling’s
- 5% aunt’s/uncle’s
- 6% known/other

(Of the 24% of cases known.)

Put your medicines up and away every time you use them and put the poison control center number in your phone:

1-800-222-1222

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MEDICINE SAFETY VISIT SAFEKIDS.ORG

© 2013 Safe Kids Worldwide