

# POISONology

SAFETY & FIRST AID TIPS FROM THE ARIZONA POISON AND DRUG INFORMATION CENTER

## Medication box safety for everyone



When a pharmacist hands over a prescription to a patient, the law requires the medicine be in a child-resistant container in order to prevent kids from getting into the medication. This is extremely important, because if a child swallowed even one tablet of certain medications, it can potentially cause life-threatening injuries.

“Child-resistant” means that given enough time, most children can open these containers. So it is important to store them out of reach, and preferably locked away safely.

But many people place their drugs in other containers that help them to remember when to take their medicine. The containers with compartments labeled for each day of the week can be very helpful. Unfortunately these containers are usually NOT child-resistant.

The poison center is not trying to discourage the use of daily medication boxes. In fact, we know how useful these containers can be, so we remind patients of the **SAFE** use of them. Write down a description of what the pills look like with their names, dosage and how often to take them. Then if you drop or spill the box, you have a safer way of identifying them.

If you use these medication boxes, whenever you have small children living in or visiting your home, please be aware of the poisoning risk. **Store the medication boxes in an area out of reach of children** and remember that children are very curious and will climb, crawl and open anything that interests them.

With that being said, accidents can and will happen. If there is any concern that a child has gotten into your daily medication container, please call the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center immediately for help.

*Call the tollfree national hotline at 1-800-222-1222 to reach your local poison center. If you live in Arizona outside of Maricopa County, this number will get you to our experts at the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center in Tucson.*