

Sample Lesson Plan

WHAT IS A POISON?

Materials needed

- Clean, empty poison containers or pictures of the same.
- Clean, empty food containers or pictures of the same.
- Activity discussion ideas provided. Poison Investigator Badges, “We Ask First” song, and Billy’s Birthday story.
- Home Check List, Mr. Yuk stickers, and telephone stickers can be ordered by calling the Oklahoma Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Crayons, glue, scissors, pencils, paper.

NOTE: DO NOT ask children to bring poison containers from home.

Presentation Outline

- Define poison/non-poison.
- Discuss what parts of the body a poison can harm. Examples – brain, eyes, nose, throat, stomach, heart, lungs, skin. Then emphasize that poisons can hurt our entire body.
- Discuss people to call for help (teacher, parent, older sibling, Poison Control Center, 911)
- Present pictures of poisons for discussion. You could hold up different poisons and talk about how they can hurt us. For example:
 - Bleach hurts our throat and looks like water.
 - Gasoline is slimy and can slip into our lungs. It is not smart to breathe gasoline on purpose, this can hurt our brain.
 - It is okay to smell flowers, but not okay to eat them. Everything that smells good, is not good for us.
 - Bug Spray is often on flowers. If it hurts bugs, it probably can hurt us.
 - Glass cleaner – It is okay to clean windows, not okay to spray into someone’s eyes.
 - Dish soap is okay to clean windows but not okay to drink.
 - Medicine – one of the most important poisons we will talk about. Ask
 - Is it okay to take medicine sometimes?
 - Who can give you medicine? (mom, dad, grandparent, teacher, doctor, nurse, hospital, aunt, uncle - a trusted adult). If a child answers a babysitter or older sibling, it is okay if they have parent’s permission.
 - Paint – Ask
 - Is it poisonous if it is wet?
 - How about dry?
 - If you see a baby eating dry paint, who do you tell?
- Emphasize what to do if they see a poison “Stay Away!”
- Emphasize to always “Ask First” before they eat or drink anything. Good time to sing the “We Ask First” song.
- Show the children the Home Check List. Have them take it home and poison proof their house with the help of an adult. Ask if anyone has little brothers or sisters. Discuss how they are able to protect the entire family. Ask again, “Now what are you going to do with the “Home Check List”?”

- Children may also be interested in snakes or spiders. There are three different types of poisonous snakes in Oklahoma; rattlesnake, copperhead, and water moccasin (cottonmouth). How do you tell if a snake is poisonous? Please emphasize to not pick up or try to catch a snake to find out. Poisonous snakes in Oklahoma are pit vipers. Their heads are shaped like a triangle and they have eyes like a cat. Non-poisonous snake have pupils like ours, they are round.

Objectives

- Students will identify containers of poisons.
- Students will identify containers of food.
- Students will determine how to distinguish between poisonous/non-poisonous items.
- Students will participate in discussion about poisonous/non-poisonous items.
- Students will discuss Poison Home Checklist, telephone stickers, (optional) what the Mr. Yuk symbol stands for.
- Students will discuss emergency procedures.
- Have students draw a picture of a poison container and tell a story about where they might find these substances.

Introduction/Motivation

- Ask students if they have ever had to call the Oklahoma Poison Control Center.
- Ask students to tell what a poison is and what it does.
- Ask how to tell if a substance is a poison or not.
- Discuss effects of poisons on the body.
- Discuss correct emergency actions including location of emergency numbers and 911.
- Present pictures/containers and discuss.

Activities

- Define poison.
- Identify pictures of food/poison.
- Draw a picture of a poison and write/tell a story about where it can be found.

Evaluation

- Participation in discussion.
- Completion of a picture.
- Telling a story.

WHAT IS A POISON

ACTIVITY DISCUSSION IDEAS

What is a poison?

A poison is something that can make you sick if you taste it, smell it, and get it on your skin or in your eye. A product that may be safe in a normal dose may be unsafe at overdose levels. Something that is useful to clean floors is not intended to be drunk and could harm a person when swallowed. Many products are safe when used as intended, but are otherwise unsafe.

It's important for children to understand that poisons come in all shapes and sizes and in many different types of containers. They can be plants, liquids, powders, fumes, or sprays. Poison can also be a good thing used in a wrong way, like vitamins, medicines, perfumes, or hair spray.

What forms does a poison take?

Poisons can be solids, liquids, or vapors (gases). Examples of each are as follows:

- Solids- medicines, plants, granular drain cleaners
- Liquids- perfumes, toilet bowl cleaners, floor cleaners
- Sprays- window cleaners, perfumes, cleaners
- Gases (Invisibles)- natural gas, car exhaust, carbon monoxide.

What can a poison do to me if I eat, drink or even taste it?

It can make you sick, blind or it can even kill you. The way your body reacts to the poison depends on what and how much you ate, drank or tasted of the substance. It also depends on your age, weight, general health and any other medications you may be taking at the time.

Activity Ideas

- The children may be asked to participate in a poison hunt in the classroom, pointing out the various containers or pictures and stating whether or not they are a poison.
- The teacher may ask each child to discuss why he/she considers an item a poison or food.
- The children can be instructed to place the articles in a receptacle (box or trash can) after they have asked the teacher "Is this a poison or not a poison?"
- The presenter could read the Billy's Birthday Story to the class.
- The presenter could sing the "We Ask First" song to the class to the tune of "Three Blind Mice".
- The children could be instructed to take the Home Checklist home and pretend to be an investigator with their parent's supervision. The children could color the "Poison Investigator" badge and pin it on like a sheriff's badge. When a poison is found or identified, a Mr. Yuk sticker could be placed on the poison by the parent and placed out of reach.

BILLY'S BIRTHDAY STORY

Billy's Birthday

It was an exciting day at Jessica's house. It was her brother Billy's birthday, and everyone was helping to get ready for the party. Dad was blowing up balloons, Mom was decorating the cake and big brother was painting a sign that said *Happy Birthday Billy*.

Jessica jumped into the kitchen. "How can I help, Mom?" she asked.

"I have a special job for you Jessica," Mom said, "I'm trying to decorate Billy's birthday cake with frosting and he's trying to decorate it with his fingers. Would you take Billy in the other room? Maybe, he'd like to play with his new ball."

"Yeah," smiled Billy. "He does like his new ball, Mom" laughed Jessica. "I saw him trying to eat it this morning, but it was too big for his mouth,"

"Do you remember our poem about eating things you find, Jessica?" Mom signed.

"Oh sure Mom," said Jessica, "***It may look pretty. It may smell good. But before I taste it, I'll ask if I should.***"

"Great!" Mom said. "Big 5 year olds like you understand that the poem means you should never eat or drink anything without asking to see if it is safe or if it is poison. Billy does not understand that, so when you are with Billy, you must ask for him."

"Okay Mom," squealed Jessica as she chased Billy into the living room.

As they rounded the corner, they almost ran into their big brother, Mike, who was standing on a stool trying to hang Billy's birthday banner on the wall. "Hand me the tape please, this needs an extra piece."

"Sure Mike," Jessica said, "You've done a great job! I like the dinosaurs you painted on the sign, don't you Billy?"

When Jessica looked down, Billy had picked up the can filled with what looked like water with paintbrushes in it. He was about to take a drink when Jessica yelled; "Wait Billy!" and she snatched the can away.

"Oh no!" Mike said as he jumped off the stool. "Did Billy drink that?"

"No," Jessica said, "I know that ***It may look pretty. It may smell good. But before I taste it, I'll ask if I should.***"

"This is not safe to drink! It's the stuff I got from the garage to clean my paintbrushes. You saved Billy, Jessica. It would have made him very sick," Mike explained, as he took the can from Jessica. "Daddy told me I should be very careful because this is a poison."

"Yuck," Billy said.

"Yes, Yuck!" Mike said as he headed for the garage to put the paint cleaner away.

"I'm glad I stopped you Billy," Jessica said as she gave him a huge hug. "Who wants to be sick and in bed on their birthday!"

Ding-Dong. Grandma and Grandpa burst in. Grandma was carrying a giant bouquet of flowers from her garden and Grandpa was balancing a basket of apples and a pile of presents. "Happy Birthday Billy!" Grandma said while reaching down to give Billy a big hug. Instead of giving his grandma a hug, he grabbed a handful of Grandma's flowers and stuffed them in his mouth.

"Oh Billy," Jessica moaned, "You didn't ask first."

"Listen to your big sister," Grandma said, "Not everything from my garden is safe to eat."

"That's right," Grandpa said, "***It may look pretty. It may smell good. But before I taste it, I'll ask if I should.***"

“Why Grandpa,” Jessica said, “you know Mommy’s poem too.”

“Yes,” Grandpa laughed, “I was around when she learned it.”

Jessica’s daddy popped his head out of the kitchen door. “It’s birthday party time!” he said.

“It’s a good thing,” Jessica said, “Because I think Billy is hungry.”

Everyone went into the kitchen and sat around the big table Dad had decorated with balloons.

Grandma put her flowers in a vase next to Mom’s beautiful cake. Billy laughed and clapped his hand as everyone sang “Happy Birthday.”

When Mom gave him the first piece of cake, Billy said “Yum,” and grabbed it with his fingers and stuffed it in his mouth.

Then Jessica’s mom cut the second piece of cake and said, “This one goes to Jessica, my big helper.” She added as she scooped up a spoonful of ice cream, **“This does look pretty. This does smell good. It’s safe to eat because Mom said you could.”**

WE ASK FIRST SONG

(Three Blind Mice tune)

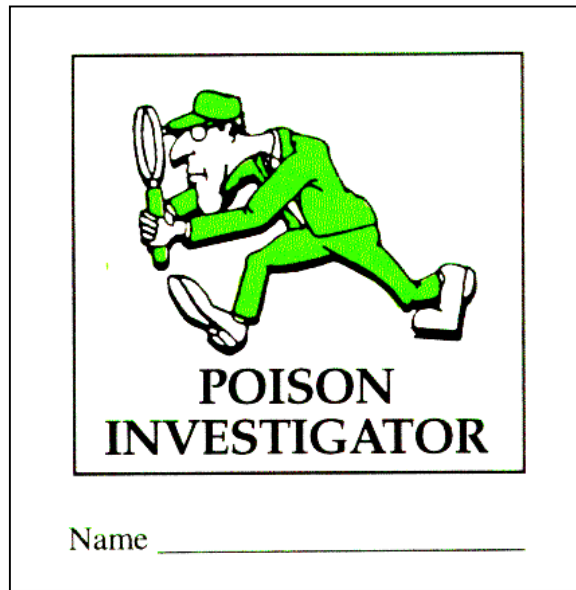
We Ask First - We Ask First

**What We May Taste - What We May Taste
When Something Looks Like It’s Good To Chew
And Even Might Smell Like It’s Yummy Too
It Could Be a Poison So Here’s What We Do...
We Ask First We Ask First!**

(Field Newspaper Syndicate granted Permission for use of this song)

- Student’s names can be substituted, “Amy Asks First, Amy Asks First...”
- The children might enjoy teaching the song to younger brothers and sisters at home.
- If the children are very young, the parents can sing the middle parts of the song, while the children start and end the song with “We Ask First”
- The teacher can explain that children should ask first because something that might look good to eat or drink may in reality be something not safe “a poison.”
- The teacher may ask the students:
 - When should we ask what to eat?
 - Who should we ask what to eat?
 - Why should we ask what to eat?

POISON INVESTIGATOR BADGE



Students can also draw their own Mr. Yuk stickers on the bottom half of this page. Or draw something that is a poison or something that is good to eat.