



## Sample Presentation for different age groups preschool – third grade

### Know Your ABC's - Presentation

Stay Away, Be Prepared, Call for Help

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#### Introduction

- Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_, and I'm from \_\_\_\_. How is everyone doing today? Are you ready to learn about poisons?
- Rules – First, let's talk about some rules. I'm going to be asking a lot of questions. I'll call on people who raise their hand and are sitting quietly. Also if it gets too loud, I'll do this (some kind of quiet sign) and it means to be quiet. Then, I'll continue.

By raising your hand, who can tell me some things that are poisonous?

- Examples – snakes, spiders, cleaners, drugs, gas, etc.
- Some might say “pot” or another illicit drug, just say “yes” and continue.
- Some might say “fire”, just say it is a danger we stay away from but not a poison

#### Stay Away

By raising your hand who can tell me what parts of our body a poison can hurt?

- Examples – brain, eyes, nose, throat, stomach, heart, lungs, skin. Then emphasize that poison can hurt our entire body.
- Because poisons can hurt our entire body, what do you do if you are around poisons? Take various answers and emphasize – **STAY AWAY**.

Discussion of different poisons. Hold up different poisons and talk about how they can hurt us.

Try to involve the class by asking them questions about the information below:

- Bleach hurts our throat and looks like water.
- Gasoline is slimy and can slip into our lungs. It is also dangerous to breathe gasoline on purpose; this can hurt our brain.
- It is OK to smell flowers, but not OK to eat them. Everything that smells good is not always good for us.
- Bug spray is often on flowers. If it hurts bugs, it probably can hurt us.
- Glass cleaner – it is OK to clean our windows, but not OK to spray in someone's eyes.
- Dish soap – It is OK to wash with it, but not to drink it.
- Medicine – This is one of the most important poisons we will talk about today. Is it OK to sometimes take medicine? Who can give you medicine? Mom, dad, grandparent, teacher, physician, nurse, hospital, aunt, uncle, - any trusted adult. If a child answers a babysitter or older sibling, it is OK only if they have the parent's permission.
- Paint – Is it poisonous if it is wet? How about dry? If you see a baby eating dry paint, who do you tell?

#### Be Prepared

Now we know what poisons are and if you find a poison – what do you do?

**STAY AWAY!** The best way to do this is to **BE Prepared**.

Show the children the Oklahoma Poison Control Center Home Check List.

- Tell them to take it home and poison proof their house with the help of an adult.
- Discuss that they are able to help protect their entire family. You can ask how many people have little brothers or sisters (by raising their hand).
- Tell them they are especially important to help protect them.
- Review – make sure they know to take the checklist home. Ask again, “Now what are you going to do with this”.

## Call for Help

It is also a good idea to know who to call or tell if you think someone has been around a poison

- Who can you call or tell?
- What is a phone number you can call if there is an emergency? 911 (if in a rural area, ask the teacher if they have 911 services and if not who they call in an emergency)
- Show them the Oklahoma Poison Control Center phone stickers. Ask – By raising your hand how many people know where the emergency numbers are at their house? Discuss that everyone should know where emergency numbers are at their house. For example these emergency numbers are 911, police, fire department, parents work number, etc. (I often mention this would make a good homework assignment.)

**This is the main presentation – however, the children may be interested in snakes and spiders. Keep in mind when preparing that children will also want to share their stories.**

## Perilous Partners

- How many different types of poisonous snakes are in Oklahoma? Three, rattlesnake, copperhead and water moccasin (cottonmouth).
- How do you know the difference between the poisonous and non-poisonous snakes in Oklahoma? The 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.
- Do you want to get close enough to a snake to see its eye? What do you do if you see a snake? STAY AWAY! Never try to catch or kill the snake.
- Where do you go if a snake has bitten you? Hospital.
- Do you take the snake with you to the hospital? No
- How many different types of poisonous spiders in Oklahoma are serious health risks? Two, fiddleback (brown recluse spider) and black widow spider.
- Should you ever play with spiders? No STAY AWAY
- Has anyone ever had poison ivy? Show them the picture. How did it make you feel?
- How many leaves does poison ivy have? Three – “leaflets three, let it be!”
- Show them a picture of a tarantula, scorpion and centipede – these are not usually dangerous in Oklahoma. But, it is a good idea to stay away from them because they can bite or sting. If you are bitten or stung and have trouble breathing, see a doctor. Some people have pet tarantulas, which need to be handled with care. Most tarantulas have itch-causing hairs on their abdomens. They can kick these in the air or in some cases press them into an "intruder." These hairs can cause rashes and occasionally bad eye inflammations in humans. Keep your face away from your spiders and wash your hands after any contact with their bodies or cage bedding.

## Review

- By raising your hand, who can tell me five poisons?
- What do you do if you're around a poison?
- What are you going to do with this (Home Check List)?
- Where does the Oklahoma Poison Control Center phone sticker go?
- Great job! – Give yourselves a hand.