Officer Ugg Poison Prevention Packet
for Parents
Dear Parents:

Today, a representative from Safe Kids Kalamazoo County presented ‘The Poisonous Perils of Petie and Penny, a puppet show presentation about poison prevention in and around your home.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
- About 5 million poisoning exposures occur in the United States each year.
- Approximately 75% of these poisoning exposures happen to children under 5 years of age.
- Two-year-olds are exposed to poisons more often than children of any other age.
- About 40% of all poisoning exposures occur in the kitchen, and approximately 20% happen in the bathroom.
- Once a child has swallowed a poison, he or she is more likely to be exposed to a poison again within a year.
- Because of help provided by poison centers, approximately 80% of poisoning exposures are treated at home, avoiding unnecessary hospital Emergency Room visits and costs.

We urge you to go on a poison patrol and identify all items that children must not handle. These are things they should not touch!

**If a poisoning does occur, here are some guidelines to follow:**
- Call for help. If you suspect a child has swallowed something, check his/her mouth. Remove any remaining poison from his/her mouth, then call your local poison control center. Call even if you are not sure that the child was poisoned. In the case of poisoning – seconds count!
- Place the sticker with the Poison Control Center (1-800-222-1222) phone number on your telephone.

**CAN YOU PREVENT CHILDHOOD POISONING EXPOSURES?**
Yes! Most accidental poisonings can be avoided if adults take precautions with household substances. Look inside of this packet to find out ways to ‘Poison Proof’ your home.

Sincerely,
Safe Kids Kalamazoo County
Poisoning Prevention Tips

☐ Teach children to ask an adult before putting anything into their mouths.

☐ Install safety latches on cabinets and drawers.

☐ Keep all medicines, cleaning products and chemicals out of reach and out of sight of children.

☐ Do not put medicines, cleaning products or chemicals in the same cabinets with food.

☐ Try to purchase products with safety caps.

☐ Read labels before using products and follow directions exactly.

☐ Do not make a game of taking medicine. (Never call medicine “candy”).

☐ Always turn on the light before taking or giving medicine.

☐ Dispose of old medicine properly. (Do not discard in the trash).

☐ When called to the door or phone, take any open/available product or your child with you.

☐ Never mix cleaning products or chemicals.

☐ Take extra care at times of family stress and when extra activities are taking place. This is a common time for poisoning to occur.
1. Know which household products are poisonous.

2. Keep poisonous products out of kids' reach.

3. Keep the National Poison Control Center hotline number by each phone: 1-800-222-1222.

4. Keep products in their original containers. Read labels to learn if a product is poisonous and for first aid information.

5. Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy.

6. Choose medicines and products that have child-resistant caps.

7. Keep make-up, hair spray, cologne, and other personal products away from children.

8. Install carbon monoxide detectors in the home.

9. Throw away old medicines and cleaning products.

Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!
## POISON PATROL CHECKLIST

### SAFE CHECK
- Are products stored on high shelves?
- Are child-resistant safety caps in use?
- Are safety latches used on cabinets and drawers?
- Are items properly labeled and in their original containers?
- Are harmful products locked up, out of sight and reach of children?

### Check these areas of your home:

### KITCHEN
- Detergents, Dishwasher Soaps
- Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner
- Refrigerator (Cough Syrup, Other Medications)
- Cups (Soaps, Bleaches, Denture Cleaners)
- Medicines, Vitamins
- Polish (Furniture, Floor, Silver)
- Drain Cleaner, Oven Cleaner

### BEDROOMS
- Medicine (Sleeping Pills, Aspirin)
- Perfume, Cologne, Aftershave
- Sprays (Hair, Deodorant, Etc.)
- Baby Powder, Diaper Cream
- Cosmetics

### GARAGE/OUTSIDE STORAGE
- Car Products (Motor Oil, Antifreeze, Gas Additives)
- Garden Products, (Bug Sprays, Weed Killers, Fertilizers, Herbicides)

### LAUNDRY AREA
- Detergents, Soaps
- Dyes, Bluing Agents
- Bleaches
- Fabric-Care Products
- Stain or Spot Removers

### ATTIC/'CLOSETS/STORAGE PLACES
- Hobby and Craft Supplies
- Ink, Glue, Other Adhesives
- Insect Traps, Rat Poison, Etc.

### THROUGHOUT YOUR HOME
- Alcohol, Tobacco
- Mothballs
- Plants
- Lead Paint (Paint Chips, Toys, Etc.)
- Purses (Medicines, Lotions, Etc.)
Look Alike Products
Don’t Be Fooled
Candy & Medicine can look alike

From a child's view ... it all looks like candy!

1-800-222-1222

Led by

SAFE KIDS KALAMAZOO COUNTY

www.safekidskalamazoo.org
Tips for Grandparents on Safe Medicine Storage

You love your grandchildren and would do anything for them, but did you know these startling facts?

- Annually, more than 60,000 children – or roughly four school busloads of children per day – age five or younger are treated in emergency departments for accidental ingestion of household medicines.¹,²
- Nearly 1 out of every 4 grandparents say they store prescription medicines in easy-access places; and 18 percent keep over-the-counter medicines in easily accessible spots.³

Don’t let your grandchildren become a statistic. Take the following precautions to help keep them safe:

- **Keep all medicines and vitamins up and away and out of sight** in a high cabinet or other place inaccessible to your grandchildren.

- **Keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicines or vitamins** in them out of their reach and sight.

- **Remember to never leave medicines or vitamins out** on a table, countertop, or bedside table where your grandchildren could reach them – always make sure the caps are locked and put them away every time they are used.

- **Set a daily reminder** to take your medicines and vitamins on your refrigerator or a location you check on a daily basis, since they will be safely stored up and away and out of sight.

- **Program the national Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222**, along with other emergency contact numbers into your home and cell phone, so they are available in case of an emergency.

For more tools and information, visit [UpandAway.org](http://UpandAway.org).