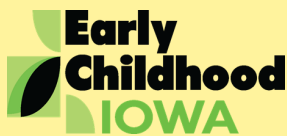


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Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



[www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org)

The Child Care Nurse Consultant Program is funded by



# Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County  
Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN

MARCH 2019

## National Poison Prevention Week March 17–23, 2019

Each year in the United States over 2.4 million people contact a poison center regarding a poison exposure. More than half the calls involve children under the age of six. Usually these poisonings result in mild or no symptoms, but there is potential for severe injury or even death. The top four reported reasons why children are accidentally poison are:

- **Poisons are not stored properly.** Commonly used products left in the open where they can be seen is the number one reason children get poisoned. Purses or diaper bags sitting on the floor, medications, or cleaning products left unattended for "just one second," can all lead to poisonings.
- **Children are curious.** Children are naturally curious about the taste, smell and texture of products. Children may be interested in the mechanics of a spray container. By swallowing, smelling or spraying a product children learn more about it. By smelling, touching, and tasting, they learn about the world. Brightly colored liquids spray containers, pills, leafy or flowering plants attract children.

- **Children think a poison is something other than a poison.** Many poisons look or taste similar to other things. Medicine tablets look and can taste like candy. Anti-freeze tastes sweet. Red mouthwash looks like fruit punch.
- **Children imitate the behavior of adults.** Children like to copy what their parents or other adults do, such as taking medication, drinking colored liquids, and spraying chemicals.

To prevent poisoning keep all poisons and medications stored safely inaccessible to children. If you think someone has been poisoned, the Iowa Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Post the Poison Control number **1-800-222-1222** for all staff and parents to see and add the Poison Control number to your cell phone contacts. For free materials including posters, coloring sheets, magnets and stickers go to <http://www.iowapoisson.org/order-material/>

## Caring For Our Children (CFOC)

*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs*, (CFOC) is a collection of national standards that represent the best practices, based on evidence, expertise, and experience, for quality health and safety policies and practices for early care and education settings. Each standard provides an overview, rationale, comments, related standards and references or the research behind the standard. CFOC is available for purchase or for free online.

Search the *CFOC Online Standards Database* by health and safety topic, search term, chapter, or standard number at <http://nrckids.org/CFOC>

To view the *CFOC Online Table of Contents* go to <http://nrckids.org/CFOC/TOC>

*Caring for Our Children:  
National Health and  
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