This activity demonstrates how difficult it can be to distinguish between common food items and some dangerous household substances.

LOCATION:
Indoors or outdoors. This activity can be conducted on its own in a smaller space (such as a classroom) or as one station of a larger safety fair.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:
Safe Kids coalitions have experience conducting poison prevention activities in a variety of settings. Partnering with a local coalition is the easiest way to ensure you have access to the expertise, equipment and resources needed to host a successful event.
Your local health department or drug-prevention organization also may be a great resource.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Common household items such as vitamins and medications, household cleaners, etc.
- Look-alike items such as candy, sports drinks, juice, etc.

PREPARATION:
- On a display table, set up look-alike items in pairs. (For example: windshield wiper fluid, mouthwash and blue sports drink, Pine-Sol and apple juice, gummy vitamins and gummy bears, medicine and candy.)
- Remove labels, but be sure to have a “key” available for the volunteers who will be running the activity.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTION
- Invite children to guess which item in each pair might be harmful.
- Talk with children and their parents about how it is difficult to identify many items by sight. Remind children always to ask a grownup before eating or drinking anything.
KEY MESSAGES

When you conduct any activity focused on poison prevention, share the following key messages with parents (either during the activity, or as a take-home):

1. Program the Poison Control Center number into your cell phone, so you have the number if you need it: 1-800-222-1222.

2. Household products such as cleaners, pesticides, cosmetics, art supplies and medicines should be kept up and away, out of children’s reach. Use child safety locks on cabinets as appropriate.

3. Buy child-resistant packages and containers when they are available.

4. Keep products and medicines in their original containers to avoid confusion.

5. Always read the label and follow the directions on the product you are using.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about poison prevention can be found on the Safe Kids Worldwide website: www.safekids.org