

**Over two million**

Poison exposures reported to local poison centers in 2000

**89%**

Percent of all poison exposures that occur in the home

**14 seconds**

Average frequency poison centers handle a poison exposure

**92%**

Percentage of exposures that involve only one poisonous substance

**53%**

Percentage of poison exposures that occur in children under the age of six

**160,000**

Cases of poison exposure reported among teenagers in 2000

**84%**

Percentage of reported adolescent deaths from poison exposure that were due to intentional poison exposure such as suicide or drug abuse

**Over 8,000**

Poison exposures in 2000 that occurred in pregnant women

**77%**

Percentage of all exposures that are treated on the site where they occurred, generally the patient's home with phone advice and assistance from local poison control experts

**86.7%**

Percentage of poison exposures that are unintentional

*From the 2000 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers*

# Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Schools Group

**March 19th – 25th**

## National Poison Prevention Week

This year's theme is "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!" This means that parents must always be watchful when household chemicals or drugs are being used. Many incidents happen when adults are using a product but are distracted for a few moments. Children act fast, and adults must make sure that chemicals and medicines are stored away from children at all times.

reach.

Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy. Referring to medicine as candy could cause a child to think that it is harmless or pleasant to eat. Since children tend to mimic adults, avoid taking medications in front of them. Vitamins, particularly those containing iron, can also be poisonous to children.

Post the national toll-free National Poison Control Center hotline number. 1-800-222-1222.

Keep ipecac syrup on hand, and use it only at the advice of a poison control center.

### Accidental Poisoning

If you suspect a child has swallowed something, check his or her mouth. Remove any remaining poison from the child's mouth, then call your local poison control center. When calling, bring the container of the ingested substance to the phone with you. Call even if you are not sure that the child was poisoned. The poison center staff or emergency personnel will determine if you need to do anything for the child.

*From National Safe Kids Campaign  
[www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)  
 and [www.poisonprevention.org](http://www.poisonprevention.org)*