

# Chatham Child Care News

Monthly Newsletter

September 2001

## Stop Childhood Poisoning

### What is a poison?

A poison is anything someone eats, breathes, gets in the eyes or on the skin that can cause sickness or death. Poisons can be found in four forms: solid, liquid, spray or gas.

What are some materials that can be poisonous to children?

#### Personal care products:

mouthwash, nail polish, permanent wave solutions, hair removal products, nail polish remover, cosmetics

#### Household products:

drain cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, ammonia, bleach, pesticides, lamp oil, oven cleaners, furniture polish, gasoline, kerosene, antifreeze, windshield solution, fertilizers, lawn chemicals

#### Medicines and vitamins:

Heart and blood pressure drugs, tranquilizers, cough and cold medicines, iron and pain relievers, diabetes medicines

#### Plants:

wild mushrooms, philodendron, foxglove, castor bean, dieffenbachia, pokeweed, holly berries, Peace Lily

#### The top 10 substances involved in poisoning are:

1. Cosmetics and personal care products
2. Analgesics
3. Household cleaning substances
4. Cold and cough preparations
5. Plants
6. Pesticides
7. Foreign bodies, toys and miscellaneous
8. Topical preparations
9. Bites and envenomations (bug, spider, bee and snake bites)
10. Sedatives and anti-psychotic drugs

## POISON PREVENTION

How can people keep children safe from poisons?

Poisons often come in pretty colors and attractive containers and can look just candy and other foods. Children, especially those under the age of six, may mistake poisons for something good to eat or drink. Follow these safety tips to help keep children safe from poisons:

### Store Poisonous Products Safely

- Lock poisonous products and medicines out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store poisonous products in their original labeled containers.
- Keep medicines, vitamins, and household products in containers with child resistant caps.
- Use children's safety latches on all cabinets and drawers.

### Use Poisonous Products Safely

- Before using a poisonous product, carefully read the label on the bottle.
- While using a poisonous product, never leave it unattended so that a child could find it.
- After using a poisonous product, put it back in a locked cabinet. Make sure the container is closed tightly.
- Never call medicine "candy," or say it tastes like candy. Children may eat medicine thinking it is candy.
- Do not take or give medicine in front of children, or while another child is watching.

### Practice Poison Prevention

- Install carbon monoxide detectors.
- Always have activated charcoal (a medicine that binds poisons in the stomach) on hand for poison emergencies, but DO NOT USE unless directed by the Carolinas Poison Center.

- Don't let the child get hungry. He or she is more likely to try to find something to eat and may choose the wrong thing.
- Keep cosmetics and other little-known household hazards out of a child's reach.
- Safety latches on drawers or cabinets and child-restraint caps on bottles are helpful in keeping poisons out of the hands of children. But remember, they are not "child-proof" and do not take the place of your careful and constant supervision.
- Keep the Carolinas Poison Center number near each phone in the home.  
**1-800-84-TOXIN.**

## POISON FIRST AID

What should I do if I think a child has been poisoned?

1. Do not panic.
2. Do not wait for the child to look or feel sick.
3. If the child is unconscious or not responsive, call 9-1-1 immediately.
4. If the child is conscious, call the Carolinas Poison Center (CPC) right away at 1-800-848-TOXIN. Most patients can be treated over the phone by calling Carolinas Poison Center, where experts are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### Follow these first-aid steps:

#### Swallowed Poisons:

- Contact Carolinas Poison Center immediately, 1-800-848-TOXIN.
- Take child and poisonous substance to the phone.
- Do not give the victim anything to eat or drink before calling the CPC or a doctor.
- Do not give activated charcoal unless a doctor or Carolinas Poison Center tells you to do so.

#### Inhaled Poisons:

- Get the victim to fresh air right away.
- Open all doors and windows wide.
- Call the Carolinas Poison Center. 1-800-848-TOXIN.

#### Poisons on the Skin:

- Remove contaminated clothing and rinse the child's skin continuously with water for 15 minutes.
- Wash skin gently with soap and water; rinse again

- Call Carolinas Poison Center. 1-800-848-TOXIN.

#### Poisons in the Eye:

- Rinse the eye with lukewarm water for 5 minutes.
- Call Carolinas Poison Center. 1-800-848-TOXIN.



## Subsidy News

### Paying Parent Fees

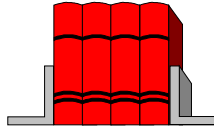
We have received several calls this month in regard to parents no longer needing your services and leaving owing parent fees. Whatever the contract or agreement is between you and the parent, this is totally separate from the agreement or contract that the parent signs with us in regard to how and when the parent fee will be paid. Once a parent is no longer using your services and leaves owing you a fee, we suggest that you try to work out a payment agreement with the parent. If no agreement can be reached, we ask that you send us a letter stating how much the parent owes you. At that point we will no longer provide subsidy services to that parent until the parent pays the fee or has made a satisfactory agreement with you. Providers are expected to collect parent fees on a regular basis.

According to your provider agreement with CCN, you should notify CCN in writing within 30 days if a parent owes you a fee. You should also be able to document that you collect those fees on a regular basis. Child Care Networks is not allowed (by State Policy) to exercise penalties against the parent for non-payment of fees, if the provider cannot document that they collect fees on a regular basis. In general, providers should apply the same policy for non-payment of fees to subsidized and unsubsidized parents alike.

-Janice Hanner



CHILD CARE NETWORKS RESOURCE LIBRARY  
**FEATURE OF THE MONTH**



This month's feature: **Activity Wheel, Primetime Playthings**

Primetime Playthings is a collection of developmental toys that make the most of babies' prime time, opening new doors of fun and learning at just the right moments in their development. Created by a team of child psychologists and toy designers, these unique playthings use bright colors, fascinating shapes and intriguing sounds to stimulate sensory experience, exploring and discovery. The Activity Wheel is part of the Primetime Playthings collection. This intriguing toy succeeds at every level in attracting and holding baby's interest and desire for play. Its lively colors, fun sounds and thrilling movements encourage looking, touching, grasping and two handed play. Its rattling beads, playful rings and "beeping" mirror deliver early lessons in cause and effect, too.

***Our Resource Library is available to Chatham County child care providers. To check out items, call Brenda Foxx at 542-6644, extension 16 or Marilyn Grubbs at extension 21. We may be able to deliver items if you have trouble coming to pick them up.***

***Items in the Resource Library were purchased with funding from the Chatham County Partnership for Children.***



### CHATHAM CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION

The Chatham Caregivers Association meets once a month, usually on the third Thursday. They rotate among various locations, with everyone contributing their favorite snacks.

For more information call Linda Elkins at 898-4133 or Karen Martin at 542-1801 (work) or 542-0084 (home).

## CPR AND FIRST AID



CPR or First Aid classes are taught by Sue Morrow, RN, monthly at Child Care Networks. Here is the upcoming schedule:

- |                |           |      |
|----------------|-----------|------|
| • September 13 | CPR       | \$22 |
| • October 2    | CPR       | \$22 |
| • November 27  | First Aid | \$15 |
| • December 3   | CPR       | \$22 |

All classes begin at 6:00 p.m. at our office, 117 E. Salisbury Street in Pittsboro. **Call Brenda Foxx to register for classes. Register early, since classes fill up quickly.**

In addition to the training listed here, we have information about workshops in nearby counties sponsored by other agencies. Call Marilyn Grubbs at 542-6644, extension 21 for this information.



## Nutrition Workshops

If you have not attended a workshop for the fiscal year 2000-2001, please make plans to do so as soon as possible. Our fiscal year for the Food Program will end September 30, 2001.

**We will have the last workshop in Chatham County on September 22, 2001. If you would like to attend, please call Ext. 13 or Ext. 45 to register for the Be Active Kids workshop on September 22, 2001 at the Cooperative Extension Building in Pittsboro, NC.**

If you would like to attend a nutrition-related workshop within your area with another community agency, you are free to do so. You will need to send us a copy of the certificate of credit hours. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or your Food Program case manager.

Pat Alston

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or call (919) 542-6644, extension 21.

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