

POISON PREVENTION WEEK: POSTER CONTEST

Lesson Plan for 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders

NOTE TO TEACHERS

Poison Prevention Week is March 16-22, 2008. As part of this annual campaign to promote poison awareness and safety, a poster contest will be held for students in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The following lesson is meant as a guide prior to the creation of the posters. This year's theme is, "Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!" Posters must be postmarked to the Washington Poison Center by October 31, 2007.

This lesson plan can be developed and modified to fit the needs of the classroom.

INTRODUCTION

Bring students into a community circle or cluster on the floor. Use this time to discuss and define poisons. *A poison is something that can cause sickness or even death if ingested, inhaled, spilled on the skin or splashed in the eyes. It comes in many forms such as solids, liquids, sprays and invisible gases.*

EXPLORATION

Ask students where they think poisons can be found.

-at home, school, outside, stores

As a class, make a list of rooms that can be found in a house. Brainstorm all the different poisons that can be found in each of these rooms. Here are some common examples that students may think of: *cleaning solution, dishwashing liquid, mouthwash, bleach, medicine, ammonia, perfume, furniture polish, paints, etc.*

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Introduce Mr. Yuk to the students. Younger students may enjoy coloring a Mr. Yuk picture. Explain that Mr. Yuk means that they should stay away and ask an adult for assistance. Remind them that things can still be dangerous even when they do not see a Mr. Yuk sticker.

Use an empty container to talk about labels and the caution words which they contain. Write a list of common caution words. Some examples of caution words are: *caution, warning, beware, poison, fatal, flammable, toxic, harmful, danger, caustic, hazardous.*

Read labels from many different household items and make a list of caution words. Discuss other ways to determine if something is a poison.



CREATION

Students create posters advertising the dangers of poisons in an attempt to promote poison safety and awareness. The theme of this year's poster contest is "Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!" Emphasize again the importance of educating people about poison safety.

Students may use any medium available in the classroom except pencil, chalk or charcoal due to smudging. The white paper should be 8.5" x 11" and horizontal or vertical. The only restrictions are that the posters must be related to the theme and include Mr. Yuk in some way. See Washington Poison Center's contest rules for more details.

REFLECTION

After completion of the poster, allow students to take some time to reflect on the effectiveness of their poster. Choose a reflection method that is appropriate for the students' grade level. The following questions can be addressed:

- What is the message or purpose of your poster?
- Is this message easily understood by looking at your poster?
- What process did you use to create your poster?
- Do you think your poster will be an effective tool for poison prevention?
- What part of your poster makes you proud?
- What are you going to do with what you have learned about poisons?

EAALRS (Essential Academic Learning Requirements)

Writing	2-The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.
Communication	4-The student analyzes and evaluates the effectiveness of communications.
Arts	3-The student communicates through the arts.
Health Fitness	2-The student acquires knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a healthy life: recognize patterns of growth and development, reduce health risks and live safely.

*This list is very general and spans three grades. **Specific GLEs (Grade Level Expectations) can be determined by the teacher depending on grade level and modification choices.**

Suggested elements to be included in a student take home "Poison Pack"

- Letter to parents
- Mr. Yuk Stickers
- A list of common look-alikes
- Home check list

*All of these are available on Washington Poison Center's website

Resources

www.wapc.org

Thank you for your participation. We hope poison prevention will be practiced every day!

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