


Good practice for poisoning prevention in children

	Evidence statement	Transfer and Implementation points
Engineering	Secure storage for poisons removes a larger portion of poisoning risk than parental supervision and may be an effective means of preventing poisoning injury. ^{65,66}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studies of how children access poisons suggest that the most vulnerable time is when the poisons are in use and that safe packaging alone cannot compensate for unsafe storage or use. This speaks to the need for improved safety of home storage of medications and improved home dispensing practice.^{67,68} - Changes to the fixed environment need to be supported by regulation and education for industry and the community, with clear labelling (and clear administration instructions) on the package, parental education and improved supervision, ongoing paediatric counselling, and increased accessibility and affordability.⁶⁷⁻⁶⁹
Enforcement	<p>Legislation of child resistant packaging reduces the incidence of poisonings.^{14,27}</p> <p> Case Example: Child Resistant Packaging for Chemicals, Netherlands, Page 68</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of enforcement will impact effectiveness.²⁸ - Legislation is most effective when supported by educational activities.²⁹
Education	Poison control centres result in considerable medical savings if the public is well informed regarding the use of their local poison control centre. ¹⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental knowledge and availability, accessibility and ease of use of poison control centres will impact their use. Educational activities may assist in increasing parental knowledge.¹⁴

