

Put your medicines
up AND away
and out of sight

Prescription for Child Safety: Store All Medicines Up and Away and Out of Sight

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Cold and flu season is upon us, and in many homes, families will be using medicines for the stuffy noses, coughs, and fevers that winter often brings. While it may seem like common knowledge to store medications out of the reach and sight of children, each year more than 60,000 young children — roughly four busloads of kids each day — end up in emergency departments after getting into medicine and vitamins that were left within reach.

Toddlers and young children are curious and can quickly get into medicines or vitamins when parents or caregivers aren't looking. They get into medicines that are placed by bedside tables and kitchen sinks, and medicines that are kept in purses and diaper bags, and they also come across pills that have fallen on the floor, or that are kept in jacket pockets. And it can happen in the blink of an eye.

During the winter when cold and flu season is at its peak, and throughout the year as well, it's important to remember to put all medicines, vitamins, or supplements up and away and out of sight *every time they are used*.

For downloadable safe medicine storage tip sheets (available in Spanish, too), and "teachable moment" coloring pages for kids and more, visit www.UpandAway.org.

Pon tus medicamentos

fuera DEL alcance
y de la vista de los niños

**Put your medicines up
and away and out of sight**



A few simple safe storage steps — followed every time — can protect our kids:

1. **Store medicines in a safe location** that is too high for young children to reach or see.
2. **Never leave medicine or vitamins out** on a kitchen counter or at a sick child's bedside, even if you have to give the medicine again in a few hours. Put them away every time they are used.
3. **Always relock the safety cap on a medicine bottle.** If it has a locking cap that turns, twist it until you hear the click or you cannot twist anymore.
4. **Never tell children that medicine is candy so they'll take it,** even if your child does not like to take his or her medicine.
5. **Tell children what medicine is** and why you must be the one to give it to them.
6. **Remind babysitters, houseguests, and visitors** to keep purses, bags, or coats that have medicines in them up and away and out of sight when they are in your home.
7. **Program the Poison Help number (1-800-222-1222) into your home and cell phones,** so you will have it when you need it.