



FIG 11-13 Children are most likely to ingest substances that are on their level, such as household cleaning agents stored under sinks; rat poison; or plants.

Recent attention has focused on the use of over-the-counter medications used for cough and colds as a common cause of accidental poisonous ingestion in toddlers. Ingestion of acetaminophen is also a common cause of morbidity because it is found in many combination over-the-counter products; caregivers may unknowingly administer a dose of acetaminophen in addition to an over-the-counter drug containing the product without knowing the danger.

Emergency and preventive measures for accidental poisoning are discussed in [Chapter 13](#). Parents should have ready access to the telephone number for the poison control center (National Poison Center, 800-222-1222) and be prepared to act on the advice of the center.

Falls

Falls are still a hazard to children in this age group, although by the later part of early childhood, gross and fine motor skills are well developed, decreasing the incidence of falls down stairs and from chairs. However, playground injuries are common. Children need to learn safety at play areas, such as no horseplay on high slides or