

Nursing Alert

Sunscreens are not recommended for infants younger than 6 months old. However, infants younger than 6 months old may have sunscreen applied over small areas of skin (such as the back of hands) that may not be adequately covered by clothing when they are in the sun. Infants should be kept out of the sun or physically shaded from it. Fabric with a tight weave, such as cotton, offers good protection.

Individuals who work in the community, such as teachers, daycare workers, coaches, and youth group leaders, as well as relatives, should all be made aware of sun safety for children. Sunscreens must be applied liberally to exposed skin and reapplied often.

Ingestion of Injurious Agents

Since the passage of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970, which requires that certain potentially hazardous drugs and household products be sold in child-resistant containers, the incidence of poisonings in children has decreased dramatically. However, despite these advances, poisoning remains a significant health concern, with most cases (49% in 2011) occurring in children younger than 6 years old ([Bronstein, Spyker, Cantilena, et al, 2012](#)). Although pharmaceuticals (such as analgesics, cough and cold preparations, topical preparations, antibiotics, vitamins, gastrointestinal preparations, hormones, and antihistamines) are frequently the agents of poisonings, a variety of other substances can also poison children. The most frequently ingested poisons include the following ([Bond, Woodward, Ho, 2012](#); [Bronstein, Spyker, Cantilena, et al, 2012](#)):*

- Cosmetics and personal care products (deodorants, makeup, perfume, cologne, mouthwash)
- Medications (acetaminophen, acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, opioids)
- Household cleaning products (bleaches, laundry pods, disinfectants)