

(uncapped and unbroken) are disposed of in a rigid, puncture-resistant container located near the site of use. Consequently, these containers are installed in patients' rooms. Because children are naturally curious, extra attention is needed in selecting a suitable type of container and a location that prevents access to the discarded needles (Fig. 6-1). The use of needleless systems allows secure syringe or intravenous (IV) tubing attachment to vascular access devices without the risk of needle stick injury to the child or nurse.



FIG 6-1 To prevent needlestick injuries, used needles (and other sharp instruments) are not capped or broken and are disposed of in a rigid, puncture-resistant container located near site of use. Note placement of container to prevent children's access to contents.

Immunizations*

One of the most dramatic advances in pediatrics has been the decline of infectious diseases during the twentieth century because of the widespread use of immunization for preventable diseases. This trend has continued into the twenty-first century with the development of newer vaccines. Although many of the