



# Minnesota Poison Control System

www.mnpoison.org

## Lesson 5: Label Reading (3rd-5th Grade)

For this lesson you will need CLEAN, EMPTY containers (or photos). Examples:

Medicine	Vitamins	Ammonia
Floor cleaner	Dishwashing liquid	Bathroom cleaner
Mouthwash	Nail polish remover	Bleach
Rubbing alcohol	Glass cleaner	Windshield washer fluid

You will also need a large board or paper to write on and a marker to write with.

### **Q: How many of you help to clean your house work or do yard work?**

*Discussion:* You probably see and use poisons every day. Things like household cleaners and gasoline for lawn mowers can be poisonous. These things are safe to use as long as they are used the right way and do not enter into your body. Unfortunately, many people get poisoned by these products every day.

### **Q: What is a poison?**

A) A poison is something that can make you sick, hurt you or even kill you if you eat or drink it, smell it, splash it in your eyes or on your skin.

### **Q: Is there a way to tell if the household cleaners we use could be a poison?**

A) Household products such as toilet bowl cleaners, scouring powders, and bleach come in labeled containers. These labels give us important information on how to use the products safely and about the possible dangers of the products. Labels often have words that tell us that the product is dangerous and that we should be careful. We call these words "caution" words.

### **Q: What are some caution words that we may find on container labels? (Wait for children to answer, and then add the ones they did not mention)**

A)	Warning	Caution	Danger	Hazardous	Poison
	Flammable	Toxic	Beware	Harmful	Fatal

Some people do not take the time to read container labels. They do not know that a product might be dangerous and they do not know how to use the product safely. That is why so many people get poisoned. I want you to remember this Safety Rule: Always read labels!

Remember that things that could be a poison should be stored in a locked cabinet, out of sight and reach of children. Always wait for a grown-up to give you your medicines and vitamins. If you take it by yourselves you may take too much, take it the wrong way, or take the wrong kind. Never touch strange plants or eat berries that are growing outdoors. They could be a poison. Always ask a grown-up first. If you are using a cleaner, always read the label and follow the directions. Ask a grown-up for help if you have any questions.



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## Lesson 5 (continued):

### **Activity:**

Write the list of “caution” words on the large board or paper. Ask for volunteers to identify “caution” words. Select volunteers (one at a time) to come and select an EMPTY, CLEAN container, then find “caution” words on the label and put a check mark next to that word on the list. (Put away each container after it is selected). When all the containers are put away, add up the total number of times each “caution” word was found. Discuss the meaning of the words.

**Finally, if you or someone you know should ever get poisoned, the Poison Center is always ready to help you. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. You can call them at 1-800-222-1222!**

***\*\*\*Note: If a person is non-responsive, has difficulty breathing, is not breathing, or is having seizures call 9-1-1 immediately\*\*\****

***(Give each child a Poison Prevention Word Search Activity Sheet as “homework”)***