The majority of adolescents begin to self-medicate with OTC medicines between 11-12 years old.

In 2013, America’s poison centers managed over 250,000 exposure cases involving children ages 6 to 19; over half of these cases involved medication errors and misuse.

Medicine errors and misuse of OTC medications result in approximately 10,000 ER visits for kids under 18 each year.

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These incidents are preventable

A BIG PART OF THE SOLUTION IS EDUCATION

1. Be sure to read & follow the Drug Facts label every time
2. Store all drugs up & away & out of reach & sight
3. Take only one medicine at a time with the same active ingredient
4. Program the Poison Help Number into your phone: 1-800-222-1222

This and other resources are available for free: www.scholastic.com/otcmedsafety

The OTC Medicine Safety program is an educational campaign to raise awareness about over-the-counter medicine safety and is sponsored by Scholastic and the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

References:

