



OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE SAFETY

OTC Medicine Safety Program 101



What Is the *OTC Medicine Safety Program*?

- ▶ A **free**, evidence-based, comprehensive Common Core–ready educational program on the safe use of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, with a rich online hub at **scholastic.com/otcmedsafety**
- ▶ Lesson plans, teacher/facilitator guides, student worksheets, activities, posters, assessment tools, family resources, and videos target 5th- and 6th-grade classroom, health, and physical-education teachers; school nurses; and community leaders and coalitions



OTC Medicine Safety Program Effectiveness

- ▶ Evidence-based program tested with more than 1,000 students
- ▶ Modeled after FDA's Medicines in My Home program
- ▶ Tested with teachers, students, and leading organizations in pediatrics and education



Why Do We Need *OTC Medicine Safety*?

- ▶ Research shows that students begin to self-medicate around age 11. If not equipped with the knowledge and training to make safe choices, mistakes can happen.
- ▶ By age 16, approximately 90% of adolescents report self-administering OTC medications.
- ▶ In 2013, America's poison centers managed more than 250,000 exposure cases involving children ages 6 to 19; more than half of these cases involved medication errors and misuse.



OTC Medicine Safety's Learning Outcomes

- ▶ Identify the differences between prescription (Rx) and OTC medicines.
- ▶ Understand the importance of the *Drug Facts* label and be able to identify its different sections.
- ▶ Understand safe storage locations for OTC medicines.
- ▶ Understand that using OTC medicines irresponsibly can cause harm.
- ▶ Recognize unsafe situations involving OTC medicines and brainstorm solutions using problem-solving skills.
- ▶ Identify the Poison Help number (1-800-222-1222) and understand that this free resource is available to support safe medicine use.



Keep students and the community safe by teaching about responsible medicine use today.

ACCESS THE FREE COMPLETE EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY
scholastic.com/OTCmedsafety



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