9 Months and UP

Your infant is now crawling and beginning to develop the skills of walking. Infants and toddlers can get into

ANYTHING ~ ANYWHERE

~ ANYTIME~

- Medication cabinets are now within reach. Child resistant caps are **NOT** child proof! Given enough time, an infant can readily open any child resistant bottle.
- Remove all mushrooms, dangerous plants, and pesticides from the yard. (Visit www.vapoison.org website for Plants and basic poison First Aid fact sheets).
- Do not store medications or other potential poisons in your purse.
- Limit access to your infant's and toddler's medications such as vitamins, antibiotics, fever reducers and cough syrups. They are formulated for them to taste good and access such as a refrigerator, table top or counter top are prime opportunities for an exposure to occur.
- Purchase only the amount of over the counter medications you will need for the time of your illness. Super Sized bottles will often expire prior to using them and it provides a lot larger potential for childhood medication exposures and poisoning.

CALL 1-800-222-1222

Never tell your child medication is candy!

The practice of telling infants and toddlers that medication is candy can make them think that ALL medication is candy. Remember that your toddler's taste is continually developing. Just because something tastes bad to you, does not mean it will taste bad to your child. Not all infant's and children's medications are meant to taste good for safety reasons. Young toddlers will often confuse appearances of medications and candy because they LOOK like candy!

Gummy Bear Candy

Virginia Poison Center
VCU Health System
PO Box 980522
Richmond, VA 23298

Emergency Phone: 1-800-222-1222
Office: (804) 828-4780

Baby's First Years

Congratulations on your new arrival!

Virginia Poison Center

www.vapoison.org

POISON Help
1-800-222-1222

Congratulations!

The **Virginia Poison Center** would like to congratulate you and your family on the birth of your infant. Let us help you keep your child safe as he or she grows and develops over the first few years.

This fact sheet contains early safety tips for poison dangers in order to prepare you as your infant develops into a terrific toddler.

The Virginia Poison Center is open **24 hours** a day, **365** days a year. Advice is FREE, IMMEDIATE, ACCURATE and given by Registered Nurses who are specially trained in poisoning emergencies of all types: drug information, drug exposures, environmental exposures, chemicals, cleaning agents, smoke and fumes.

CALL 1-800-222-1222

0-6 Months

The most common poison center call for the early months is that of medication errors.

- Use the **correct** size syringe or dropper given to you by your pharmacist or physician. Double check the recommended dose—Give the correct amount. Do you give 1 teaspoon (tsp.) or 1 tablespoon (1 tbsp.) Never use an eating spoon to measure medications.

  If you are unsure, check with the poison center, pharmacist or pediatrician before giving the medication.

- For this age group, any amount over 1 tsp. (5 ml) should be verified by the poison center, pharmacist or pediatrician.

- Make sure your babysitter has clear and written instructions for giving medications to your infant.

6-9 Months

Your baby is becoming more active and getting around your home more readily. Crawling skills are either fully developed or developing. To see what your baby can see, get on the floor and crawl with them throughout the house. Pay attention to the following things.

- **Cleaning Products** Commonly kept under the kitchen and bathroom sinks, on the bottom of linen closets or on shelves where your infant can reach.

- **Indoor and Outdoor Plants** Make sure they are all identified and pass the "safe plant" check by your poison center.

- **Anything sitting or lying on the floor, low shelves, cabinets and under the beds.** Watch for choking hazards such as buttons, button (watch) batteries, beads, coins, etc.