

MEDICINE is NOT CANDY



By Heather V. Brogan and The Poison Control Center at
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



Tommy and Alivia are very excited because today they are visiting their grandparents! It's always a lot of fun to spend the day at Grandma and Grandpa's house! Tommy likes to help Grandpa in the garage, and Alivia loves cooking with Grandma and playing with their cat, Tabby.



Tommy and Grandpa went straight to the garage and Alivia started looking for Tabby. When she looked in the bathroom, Alivia noticed that the cabinet doors under the sink were wide open. “Maybe Tabby is in there,” thought Alivia.



So she looked inside the cabinet, but instead of finding the cat, Alivia found an open bottle of pills that looked just like peppermint candy! Alivia was hungry, so she tasted one of the pills. After she ate one, she was still hungry, so she ate another, and another and another!



Tommy came into the bathroom and found Alivia sitting on the floor, eating the medicine. He took the pills away from Alivia and ran to tell Grandma and Grandpa what had happened.



Grandma knew that Alivia shouldn't have eaten the pills. Kids should never take medicine unless a trusted adult, doctor or nurse tells them to. Since the pills weren't for Alivia, they might make her sick, so Grandma called The Poison Control Center. They are always there to help.



Grandma told The Poison Control Center what had happened. They asked Grandma some questions, and then told Grandma to take Alivia to the hospital. They said that the doctors and nurses at the hospital would check Alivia, and might give her a special drink to make sure the pills she ate wouldn't make her sick.



Alivia, Grandma and Tommy were at the hospital for a little while. When they got home from the hospital, they were tired, but happy because Alivia was ok. The Poison Control Center even called to see how she was feeling!



After they rested for awhile, Alivia, Tommy, Grandma and Grandpa walked through the whole house and put poisons out of sight and out of reach. They were surprised how many chemicals and medicines they found in the bathroom, kitchen, garage and basement!



Grandma and Grandpa threw away the products they don't use and put the rest of them up high or locked them away. Tommy and Alivia were proud to help Grandma and Grandpa find all the poisons in their house and help them make the house safe.



Today was an important day for Grandma, Grandpa, Tommy and Alivia because they learned how to stay safe from poisons. And Alivia learned never to put anything in her mouth when she's not sure what it is!

The Poison Control Center

at  The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19104-4399

Poison Help Hotline: 1-800-222-1222

Support the Center: 1-215-590-2003

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For a century and a half, Children's Hospital has served as a haven of hope for children and families worldwide.

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