

Keep out of Kid's reach

Children have an **uncanny** ability to do exactly what they should not! **Toddlers** put everything that they can get their hands on into their mouths. This might be good for the learning process, but not always. Especially when they taste things such as **cleaning solution**.

Regardless of whether it is **washing-up liquid** or medication, **inducing vomiting** is **inadvisable**. There are several reasons, **first and foremost** is the fact that anything that **foams** may obstruct the upper breathing passages. Another is that **stomach acid** from vo-

miting may **irritate** the **oesophagus**, which may already be affected by the substance that was **ingested**. A third risk is inhaling the vomitus. In any case, any of the **above-mentioned** make it difficult for emergency services to effectively treat the patient.

Distraught female pharmacy customer, carrying a small, crying child: Do you speak English? Please, you've got to help me!

PTA: I can speak English. What happened?

I only turned my back for a few seconds and before I knew what he was doing, I saw him drinking the washing-up liquid!

Did he drink a lot of it?

No, I don't think so. It was a new bottle, and there wasn't much missing.

That's good. Let's see what we can do for him. What's his name and how old is he?

His name is Andrew and he's three and a half.

Hello Andrew, my name is Jenny and I'm going to help you. Okay?

Andrew: I want my Daddy!
Darling, let the nice lady help you.

And if you are really brave, we can get you something out of

the special toys and sweeties box. What do you think?

Andrew: Mommy, is that okay?
Of course it is honey.

Andrew, I am going to call the poison information centre and then we decide what to do. Just a moment, please ...

They told me to give you some special drops. The active ingredient is simeticone, which is an **anti-frothing agent**. They help to break down the foam caused by gas build-up in the stomach and **intestines**. Andrew we are going to help you to get rid of the bubbles in your **tummy!**

Thank you, you have been very calm and helpful.

You are welcome. It might be a good idea to note down this number, it is the emergency number in case of **poisoning**.

Thank you.

You might also remember the ABC of poisoning.

Which is?

Always store medicines and household chemicals safely, be prepared by knowing what to do, and call the telephone number of the poisons information centre, or your GP.

I'll remember that. What about child-resistant packaging?

Aside from locking things away and keeping them out of reach of children, it's good to have **child-proof tops on bottles. "Child-resistant" only means that a child is slowed down but not stopped completely!**

Good to know. Thanks again, bye, bye!

Good bye!

*Catherine Croghan,
Lecturer in English and native speaker*

VOCABULARY

uncanny	unheimlich
toddlers	Kleinkinder
cleaning solution	Reinigungslösung
washing-up liquid	Spülmittel
inducing	hervorrufen
vomiting	Erbrechen
inadvisable	nicht zu empfehlen
first and foremost	zuallererst
foams	schäumt
stomach acid	Magensäure
irritate	reizen
oesophagus	Speiseröhre
ingested	eingenommen
above-mentioned	Obengenannte
distraught	erzweifelt, aufgelöst
brave	mutig
anti-frothing agent	Entschäumer
intestines	Eingeweide
tummy (ugs)	Bauch, Bäuchlein
poisoning	Vergiftung
child-proof	kindersicher