

Minnesota Poison Control System

North Dakota website: www.ndpoison.org

Creating Displays: Look-A-Like Display

Description: A look-a-like display is a variety of poisonous items that look almost identical to non-poisonous items. The purpose of a look-a-like display is to show parents and children how easily a poison can be mistaken for something good to eat or drink.

Materials:

Look-a-like examples:

Powdered cleanser and Grated parmesan cheese
Grape cough syrup and Grape juice
Cherry cough syrup and Fruit punch
Pine cleaner and Apple juice
Orange colored drink and Orange colored cough syrup
Eye drops and Super glue
Water and Rubbing alcohol
Muscle cream and Toothpaste
Blue glass cleaner and Blue sports drink

***NOTE: The above items were chosen for illustrative purposes only. The Minnesota Poison Control System does not intend to imply that these items are dangerous if used as directed.*

Preparation:

Gather pairs of poisonous and non-poisonous items and display them on a table in closed containers, never display in a cup (where it may be easy for a child to get to).

***NOTE: To find additional pairs simply go to a grocery store and walk through the cleaner, medicine, and juice/sports drink aisles. You will be amazed at the large number of look-a-likes that can be found!*

Photo Option:

Print the photos on the following pages to use as a guessing game at health fairs or other community events! You can also search online to find other look-a-likes if you would prefer not to carry around physical products.

Instructions:

Show audience the look-a-like pairs and discuss them. The main lesson is that poisons can be tricky! Children should be encouraged to always ask an adult first before tasting anything. Adults should be reminded why it's important to read the label, store cleaners and other household products away from food items, and to keep products in their original containers.

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Parmesan Cheese



Powdered Cleanser

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Apple Juice



Pine Cleaner

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Sparkling Beverage



Liquid Potpourri