



## LESSON 9

### Calling Poison Control

Kate's son Connor is four years old. Every morning Kate gives Connor a children's **vitamin**. Connor likes the vitamins. They look like cartoon characters. They taste good. Connor says, "Yum. Can I have another one?"

"Tomorrow," says Kate. "Only one a day." She puts on the **child-resistant** cap. Then she puts the vitamins on the top shelf of the kitchen cabinet. It's dangerous for children to eat too many vitamins.

This morning Kate gives Connor a vitamin. Then the telephone rings. Kate forgets to put on the child-resistant cap. She puts the vitamins on the counter and answers the telephone. Kate isn't watching Connor. Connor picks up the open bottle and runs. After a few minutes, Kate hangs up the telephone. She looks for Connor. He is in his room chewing vitamins.

"Oh no!" says Kate. She is very upset. The vitamin bottle is almost empty. She thinks Connor ate about 20 vitamins. Kate runs to the telephone to call the **Poison** Control Center.

"Yum," says Connor. "Can I have another one tomorrow?"



### Check Yes or No.

**Yes**   **No**

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Every morning Kate gives Connor a children's vitamin.
- \_\_\_\_ 2. The vitamins look like cartoon characters.
- \_\_\_\_ 3. They taste terrible.
- \_\_\_\_ 4. It's dangerous for children to eat too many vitamins.
- \_\_\_\_ 5. This morning Kate forgets to put on the child-resistant cap.
- \_\_\_\_ 6. She puts the vitamins on the top shelf and answers the telephone.
- \_\_\_\_ 7. Kate is watching Connor while she talks on the telephone.
- \_\_\_\_ 8. Connor is in his room chewing vitamins.
- \_\_\_\_ 9. She thinks Connor ate about two vitamins.
- \_\_\_\_ 10. Kate runs to the telephone to call the Poison Control Center.

## Complete each sentence.

forgets  
gives

hangs up  
picks up

puts  
rings

runs  
thinks

1. This morning Kate \_\_\_\_\_ Connor a vitamin.
2. Then the telephone \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Kate \_\_\_\_\_ to put on the child-resistant cap.
4. She \_\_\_\_\_ the vitamins on the counter.
5. Connor \_\_\_\_\_ the open bottle and runs.
6. After a few minutes, Kate \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone.
7. Kate is upset. She \_\_\_\_\_ Connor ate about 20 vitamins.
8. Kate \_\_\_\_\_ to the telephone to call the Poison Control Center.

## Matching: Meanings

____ 1. child-resistant	a. container
____ 2. bottle	b. the highest
____ 3. top	c. a pill with substances for good health
____ 4. poison	d. having nothing inside
____ 5. empty	e. difficult for a child to open
____ 6. vitamin	f. something that can kill you

## Conversation with a Poison Control Operator

Practice the dialog with a partner.

My son just ate a lot of vitamins!

**Does he have any symptoms?**

No, but he only ate them about five minutes ago.

**How old is he?**

He's four years old.

**How much does he weigh?**

He weighs 42 pounds.

**What kind of vitamins?**

They were the Dancing Dog Vitamins.



## Directions for Taking Vitamins

Read the directions on the bottle of vitamins. Then answer the questions.

### DANCING DOG Complete Multivitamins

**Directions:** Children 4 years of age and older: Chew one tablet daily. Keep this product out of the reach of children. In case of accidental overdose, call a doctor or poison control center immediately. Child-Resistant Cap: Do not take vitamins if the safety seal is torn or missing.

1. How many tablets a day can a child have? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where do you keep this product? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who can you call in case of accidental overdose? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When should you not take these vitamins? \_\_\_\_\_

## Sequence the pictures.

Listen and number the pictures in the correct order.

a. \_\_\_\_\_



c. \_\_\_\_\_



b. \_\_\_\_\_



d. \_\_\_\_\_



## Checklist

People call Poison Control Centers about items like the ones below. Put a check next to the ones that you have in your home. Write other possibly dangerous items on the lines below.

bleach

mouthwash

medications

furniture polish

medication

dishwasher detergent

vitamins

cigarettes

ammonia

alcohol

plants

cough syrup

silica gel

mercury

insecticide

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## What about you?

Check Yes or No. Then write the questions and ask your partner.

**Yes**   **No**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. I take vitamins every day.

Do you take vitamins every day?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. I give vitamins to my child.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. I always put on child-resistant caps.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. I watch my child when I am on the telephone.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. I have a telephone number for the Poison Control Center.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Do you have dangerous products in your home? If so, where do you put them?
2. For what reasons should you call a Poison Control Center?
3. Why do children sometimes want things that are dangerous?