

# KEEP SAFE

**Keep all medication locked away out of sight and out of reach of your child**

## Emergency action

If you think a child has swallowed your medication

- Phone for an ambulance to get the child to the nearest accident and emergency unit as soon as possible
- Take the container of the medication (and any remaining contents) with you so the doctor knows what the child has taken
- Do not try and make the child sick – this may make things worse
- If the child is unconscious lie them on their side to make their breathing easier and to prevent them inhaling vomit if they are sick

## Safety checklist

- Do lock all medicines / drugs away from children
- Do teach children not to swallow anything unfamiliar
- Do take old and unwanted medicines to the pharmacy to be disposed of
- Do store and dispose of all sharps and injecting equipment safely
- DO NOT keep methadone in the fridge
- DO NOT store unused methadone/medication
- Do rinse empty bottles with water and swallow the content to obtain the correct dose.

**If your child swallows  
METHADONE, other  
medication, drugs or alcohol  
they could be seriously  
harmed, overdose, or die.**

**Lock medicines / drugs away where  
children cannot see or reach them**

Derby Drug and Alcohol Service 0300 790 0265  
St Andrews House, 201 London Road, Derby, DE1 2TZ



Derby City Council

# **NEVER** give methadone to a child

Over half the cases of poisoning in children are caused by them swallowing medication/drugs.

Young children are naturally curious and do not understand danger. You can't expect children to understand the difference between a brightly coloured pill and a sweet, or between methadone and fizzy pop.

When the pharmacist puts your medication – whether capsules, tablets or liquid – into a bottle, it will be supplied with a child-resistant lid.

These lids make it hard for children to open but they are NOT 100% child-proof. It is therefore essential to keep medicines locked away where children cannot reach them.

**DO NOT** put tablets and/or methadone in bottles without child-resistant lids.

**DO NOT** keep methadone, tablets, drugs or alcohol where children can get hold of them.

**If you buy** methadone and tablets off the street **remember:**

- You cannot be sure of the strength or the purity
- They may not be in bottles with child-resistant lids
- If a child does swallow them you may not be able to tell the doctor what they have taken.
- Make sure you store it **SAFELY**

**As little as a teaspoon of methadone could kill a young child.**

