

What Is Medicine?

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Describe what medicine is.
2. Explain why medicine is used.
3. Distinguish medicine from non-medicine.

Materials:

- Pictures of medicines
- Pictures of non-medicines

Things To Do Before:

- Cut out enough pictures of medicines in various forms and non-medicines (i.e., candy) from magazines, store circulars, etc., so that each student receives two pictures. Have enough medicine pictures so each child may have at least one.

Language Development:

- medicine: a substance that is used to prevent, treat, or cure an illness or infection.
- medication: medicine; a substance that is used to prevent, treat, or cure an illness or infection.
- maccine: a medicine, made of dead or weakened microbes, that is taken to prevent an illness.
- microbe: a very tiny living thing.
- injection: medicine in a liquid form that is forced into the body usually with a syringe or needle.
- pharmacy: a store where medicines are sold.
- poison: something that can injure or kill living things when they taste, touch or smell it. Poisons can be solids, liquids, or gases.
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Assessment:

Teacher will assess:

1. Students' ability to define medicine.
2. Students' ability to describe the use of medicine.
3. Students' ability to distinguish between medicines and non-medicines

Activity:

Full Group

1. Ask students, "Who has been sick before?"
2. Ask, "What types of things do you do to feel better when you are sick?" Students may give a variety of answers including stay in bed, drink tea or warm ginger ale, sleep, and eat chicken soup. Be sure that at some point medicine is mentioned.
3. Once the topic of medicine is mentioned, ask students to describe what medicine is.
 - Medicine is a substance that is used to prevent, treat, or cure an illness or infection.
 - Medicine comes in the form of liquid, pills, sprays, creams, injections, shampoos, soaps, etc.

4. Ask students to name medicines people take to treat or cure an illness or infection.
 - Examples include aspirin, Penicillin or other antibiotics, cough syrup, antibiotic ointment, insulin.
5. Ask students if they can name medicines that people take to prevent an illness or infection.
 - Tell students that vaccines, which people receive in the form of injections or needles, are medicines that prevent illnesses.
6. Ask students, "Do you normally buy medicine yourself?" (no). Tell students that medicines should be bought by adults.
7. Ask "Where do adults get medicine?" Tell students that adults can get medicines from a number of places.
 - a. The doctor
 - b. Supermarket or grocery store
 - c. Pharmacy or drug store
8. Allow students the opportunity to talk about a time they accompanied an adult to purchase medicine.
9. Ask students if they should ever take medicine on their own. (no, they should always have an adult give them medicine).
 - a. Tell students that although medicine is used to make them well again, medicine can hurt them if it is not used properly.
 - b. Medicine can be a poison, something that can hurt or kill a person if touched, tasted, or smelled.
 - c. Family members should always follow the instructions when taking medicines. It is important to take the correct amount of the medicine, at the right times, etc.
10. Tell students they will play a game to determine if they know the difference between medicines and non-medicines.
 - a. Give each student two pictures—at least one should be of a medicine.
 - b. Tell students to look at each of the pictures and decide if it is a picture of a medicine or something that is not a medicine.
 - c. Have each student stand up and tell the class what types of pictures they have.
11. Once all of the students have presented their pictures, have the students paste a picture of a medicine into their learning log or journal and write the answer to the question, "What is a medicine?"

Additional Classroom Props:

- Labels from medicine containers, both prescription and over-the-counter. Make sure the containers are empty and have been rinsed.

Dear Family:

Research has found that children need and want to know about medicines and their proper use. In fact, children form attitudes and beliefs about medicine at a young age. This can affect their behavior later in life. For these reasons, we have been discussing medicine. The students defined medicines as substances that are used to prevent, treat, or cure an illness or infection. They discussed where medicines can be bought as well as which medicines they are familiar with. Finally, the students played a game that tested their ability to distinguish between medicines and non-medicines.

Please discuss the topic of medicines with your child. When possible, walk through the pharmacy section of the supermarket or the neighborhood pharmacy where you normally purchase medicines. Reinforce the idea that medicine can be dangerous if not used properly. Remind your child that they should not take medicines on their own

Sincerely,

Your Child's Teacher