

Children's Health Minute

Air Dates: Week of March 26, 2007

"Spring is Here: Look Out for Poisonous Plants"

Dr. Hellerstedt: The coming of spring is a welcome thing across Texas – but it's not without risks for kids.

Hi, I'm Dr. John Hellerstedt with the Children's Health Minute -- connecting families with Children's Medicaid and CHIP.

Plants can become a poison hazard for curious youngsters. That's why poison control experts say it's important for you to know the names of trees and plants in and around your house.

Always keep poisonous houseplants out of the reach of young children. And teach children never to put any part of any plant into their mouths, unless of course that plant is a food that you put on their plate!

Many plants can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. A child showing any of these symptoms after putting a leaf, seed or berry in her mouth requires immediate medical attention.

Announcer: Keep your kids healthy. Call toll-free 1-877-KIDS NOW to apply or when it's time to renew your CHIP or Children's Medicaid. Six months of coverage for all your children costs just 50 dollars or less, but most families pay little or nothing. That's 1-877-KIDS NOW.