



Facilitator Guide: Medicine Hideouts



AT A GLANCE

Participants complete a worksheet where they will classify images as safe places or unsafe places to store medicine, as well as practice explaining why it is important to keep medicine in safe places at home.

Medication Safety Rules Emphasized:

1. Ask trusted adults for help with medicine.
2. Only take medicine that is meant for you.
3. **Keep medicine in safe places.**
4. Share what you learn today with family and friends.

ADAPT IT

Participants can complete this worksheet as individuals or in small groups. If scissors and glue/tape are not available, participants can directly label the images listed on the *Junior Pharmacist Resource* as safe or unsafe.

WHAT YOU DO

1. **Introduce the activity** by sharing its purpose and explaining how it connects to the goal of your program. Ask participants to review the *Junior Pharmacist Resources* and distribute any needed supplies.
2. **Complete the activity** by having participants follow the instructions within the worksheet as well as completing the “Junior Pharmacist Report” section.
3. **Wrap up the activity** by engaging children in a brief discussion using the suggested talking points as a guide.

Suggested Ages

Children in Grades 3 - 5

Suggested Group Size

25 or fewer children

Time Required

10- 15 minutes

What you need

- This facilitator guide (print 1 copy/facilitator)
- The *Junior Pharmacist* participant resource within this guide (print 1 copy/group or per participant)
- The participant worksheet “Medicine Hideouts” (print 1 copy/group or per participant)
- Pencils/Pens
- Scissors
- Glue or Tape



Facilitator Guide: **Medicine Hideouts, continued**

WHAT YOU SAY

1 Introduction

Today, each of you will play the role of a Junior Pharmacist helping people in your community learn how to store medicine safely. This activity will help us understand the best places to store medicine and explain to others why we should keep medicine safe in our homes.

Pharmacists are experts in medicine. They often teach people how to safely use medicine, but they also share how to properly store medicine to keep everyone safe.

At this time, distribute the worksheets, Junior Pharmacist Resources, pens/pencils, scissors, and tape/glue. If participants are working as a group, form small groups and explain how to share the materials.

Encourage participants to review their Junior Pharmacist Resources.

2 Activity

Explain the instructions within the participant worksheet – ask participants to work as individuals or within their group to complete both pages of their worksheet.

As participants complete their worksheet, walk around the room to further engage children, answer their questions, or ensure they understand the activity directions.

3 Wrap-Up

Encourage participants to share the information within their *Junior Pharmacist Reports*. Examples of possible questions and talking points include:

Q1. What images represented safe storage places versus unsafe places? What features helped you classify the storage places into the two groups?

Safe places to store medicine included image 3 (high kitchen cabinet), 4 (lockable travel container), and 6 (high bathroom cabinet) because they feature high places or lockable spaces out of reach from people and pets. Images 1 (kitchen counter), 2 (nightstand), and 5 (purse or bag) are easy to access and thus unsafe storage places. Encourage participants to talk with trusted adults about safe storage places in their home.

Q2. What important points did you share in your memo to families about safe medication storage?

Important points may include identifying safe storage spaces out of reach from people and pets, keeping medicine in its original container, and explaining why keeping medicine in safe places is important (“*Medicine can easily be confused with candy or other substances, and may harm us if we share medicine or do not follow instructions. Keeping medicine in safe places helps everyone, including people and pets, stay safe*”).

It may also help to generalize this conversation by connecting safe medication storage to other substances that may have safe storage locations, such as cleaning supplies, harsh chemicals, sharp objects, batteries, glues, or paints.



Junior Pharmacist Resource

